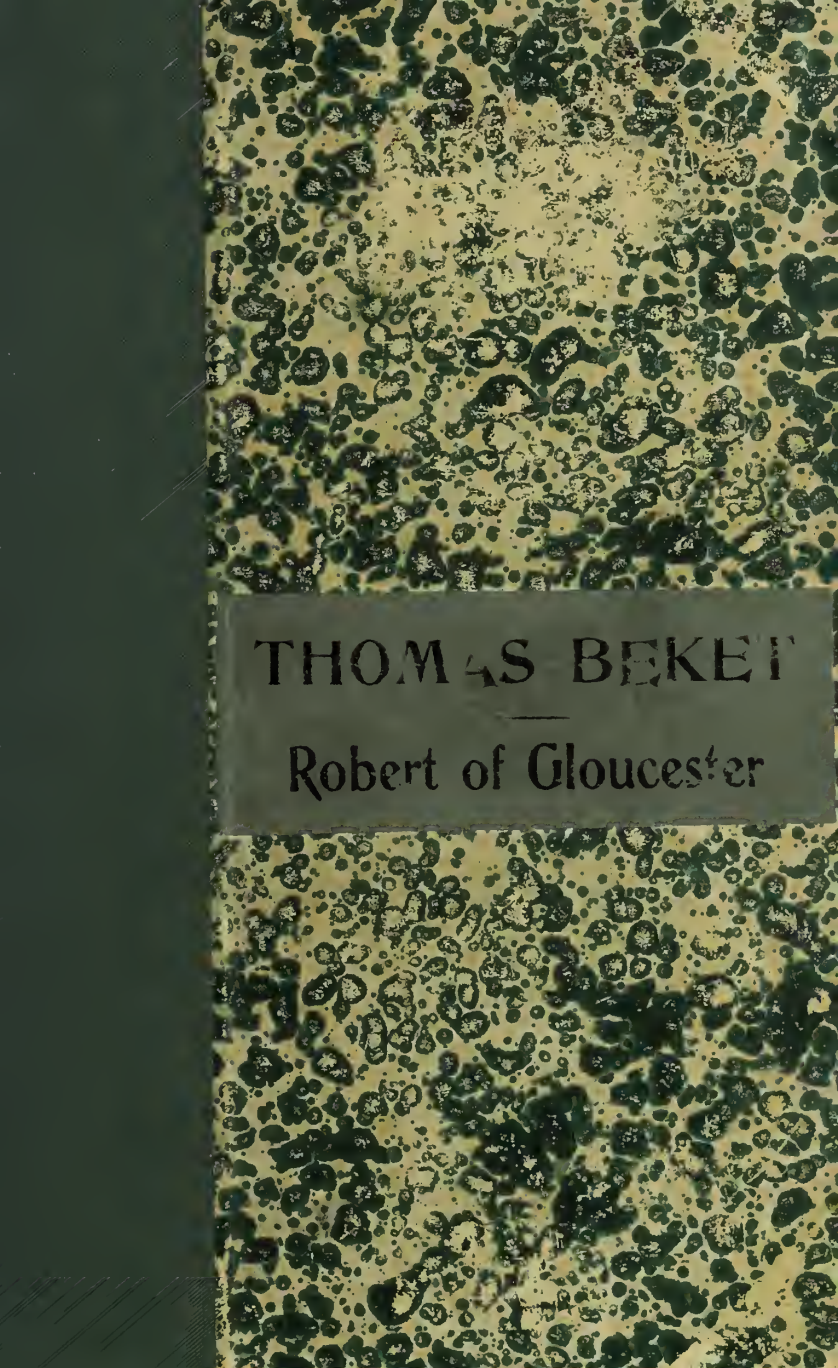


The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is decorated with a marbled paper pattern consisting of numerous dark, irregular spots and blotches of varying sizes on a lighter, yellowish-tan background. A dark, possibly black or dark green, spine is visible on the left side. A rectangular, light-colored label is affixed to the front cover, centered horizontally. The label contains the title and author information in a serif font.

THOMAS BEKET

Robert of Gloucester

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THE
LIFE AND MARTYRDOM
OF
THOMAS BEKET,

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

FROM THE SERIES OF LIVES AND LEGENDS NOW PROVED
TO HAVE BEEN COMPOSED BY

ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM HENRY BLACK,

ONE OF THE ASSISTANT KEEPERS OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS.

LONDON:
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R 639

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PREFACE.

OF the legends in old English Alexandrine verse, which constitute a complete *Liber Festivalis* in metre, for the whole year, one has already been presented to the members of the Percy Society, by Mr. Wright, in the publication (No. XLVIII) for August 1844 ; namely that of Saint Brandan. That is distinguished above others by the singularity of its subject-matter : the present is one of those lives of saints, which relate to English history, and is by far the largest in the whole work. Not only does it afford such a view of the life and character of that remarkable prelate THOMAS BEKET, the far-famed Saint of Canterbury, as was popularly entertained from the time of his death to the Reformation, but it fixes the period of the authorship of these legends, and, above all, enables us to ascertain the name of their author.

Numerous copies of the whole, or of detached portions of this work, are extant in manuscript, and extracts from them have been given by vari-

ous authors: among whom may be mentioned Ashmole, in whose "Institution of the Order of the Garter"* are given five lines of the Life of Becket, from a valuable MS. in his own collection at Oxford, now marked No. 43. That copy contains no fewer than ninety-five articles, beginning imperfectly with Saint Wolstan, (whose day falls on the 19th of January,) and ending with Saints Oswald, Thomas of Canterbury, and Edward the Confessor: they are all in the order of the calendar except these last, whose days are 5th August, 29th December, and 5th January respectively. Two of them, therefore, are wrongly placed, and Becket's life is, of all the saints or festivals treated of by this author, the latest in the year. In the Harleian MS. 2277, which begins with Benedict Abbat (this copy being defective as far as 21st March),† the life of Becket is the latest which

* 1672, fol. p. 21.

† Its imperfection at the beginning may have deprived us of the author's name, which after much search I cannot now retrieve, having little reason to believe him to be that John Goldstone mentioned by Pitts, p. 407, who is said to have compiled *Sermones de Sanctis*, and to have flourished A.D. 1320, because it does not appear that he was poetically given, or that he wrote in the English tongue: and besides, the handwriting of this MS. seems to be older than that year.—Although the name of our old English poet may at this time be difficult to find out, yet the thing itself is of

relates to *saints*; but legends of Judas Iscariot and Pontius Pilatus follow. It is from this latter manuscript that the text of the following pages, as well as that of Saint Brandan's legend, is printed: both manuscripts are of one age, the latter part of the reign of Edward I., having been written (as nearly as can be conjectured) about the year 1300. The Editor has not found opportunity of using any other manuscript, except some parts of the Arundel MS. No. 8, in the Heralds' Office, which is as late as the middle of the fifteenth century, and contains only the legends of Michael the archangel, and Thomas Beket, following a copy of the Brute Chronicle, which terminates with the death of King Henry V.

In his description of the last mentioned manuscript, the Editor first put forth an opinion, in 1829, that these legends "were evidently written in the time of Edward the First, and very probably by the author of the Chronicle called Robert of Gloucester's, the style and metre of which bear a considerable value, not only upon account of its rarity, (I not remembering to have met with any other exemplar of it), but also for the purity of its language, its age considered, and the correctness of him who wrote it."—(Wanley, *Harleian Catalogue*, II. 637, 639.) There are, however, several MSS. in the Bodleian, especially the Vernon MS., and at Cambridge, beside Harl. 2250 in the British Museum, which last does not contain the life of Beket.

complete resemblance to these compositions.”* In the same year, Sir Frederick Madden avowed the same opinion, in his edition of *Havelok the Dane*, which passed through the press at the same time as the Editor’s work here quoted. Shortly after, the Editor had the opportunity of confirming that opinion, by perusal (among others) of the poem contained in these pages, which affords demonstrative proof of the identity of authorship between the *Chronicle of England* and the *Lives and Legends*. When therefore the Ashmolean MSS. passed under his review, for a critical description of their contents, in 1831 and following years, he hesitated not to intitle the before-mentioned manuscript (No. 43), thus:—
 “*Lives of Saints and Legends of the Festivals, in the order of the English calendar, composed in Alexandrine verse by ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER, the author of the antient Metrical History of England.*”†

A scanty acquaintance with our early language is enough to refute the erroneous opinion of Warton, (who has quoted the first lines of

* “*Catalogue of the Arundel Manuscripts in the Library of the College of Arms, 1829. Not published.*” (London, 8vo.) p. 14.

† *Catalogue of the Ashmolean MSS. by W. H. Black, (Oxford, 1845, 4to.) col. 64-68.*

Beket's Life from a Bodleian MS.)* that this work was written in the time of Richard I.; the notice of the translation of Beket, from his grave to a costly shrine, which took place in 1220, disproves it at once. Moreover, there is the life of one English Saint contained in the series, who was the *seventh successor* of Beket in the see of Canterbury, and died so late as 16th November 1242,—namely Edmund, commonly called of 'Pounteney' or Pontigny, from his burial-place in France.† This Archbishop was canonized in 1246: therefore the work could not have been written till the middle of the thirteenth century, about which time Robert of Gloucester flourished. His Chronicle comes down to the year 1270;‡ and if the last leaf of the Cottonian MS. had been preserved, it would doubtless appear to have terminated with the death of King Henry III, in 1272, or the coronation of Edward I. Unfortunately we know nothing certain about the author, except one autobiographical notice in his Chronicle: for the manuscripts of that work are as destitute of title or colophon, as those of the Legends

* History of English Poetry, (8vo. ed.) i. 19.

† Harl. MS. 2277, f. 155. Ashm. MS. 43, f. 177. See also Hearne's extracts from Mr. Sheldon's MS., in his Glossary to Robert Mannyng, ('Langtoft's Chronicle'), pp. 607-609, and 611.

‡ See p. 570 of the printed copies.

are. The only authentic manuscript, which is in the Cottonian Collection, Caligula A. XI., has this modern heading, "*Historia Regum Angliæ ad Henricum Tertium, a Roberto Glocestrensi, qui eodem tempore floruit,*" which is not older than Sir Robert Cotton's time; and, whatever evidence might then have existed for that name, certainly none of a direct nature is now known, although the passage alluded to strongly confirms it. The author describes a great darkness which happened on the day of "the murder of Evesham," ("for battle it was not," says he); and adds "*for thirty miles thence, this saw ROBERD, who first this book made, and was well sore afeard.*"* The event happened on the 4th of August, 1265. The distance of Evesham from Gloucester, being about twenty-five miles, well agrees with the supposition, (if it were no more than a supposition,) that this Robert was a man of Gloucester; and the dialect of his work agrees equally well with that of the county.

It has already been shown that the exact similarity of versification, style, phraseology, and dialect, first led the Editor to consider both works to be the production of one and the same author: but the *proof* of this opinion consists in the identity of considerable portions of the Life

* Printed text, p. 560; and Hearne's Preface, p. lxxviii.

of Becket with the text of the Chronicle. The most remarkable of these is the description of the murder, where thirty successive lines are alike in both poems; but neither these nor any other passages, which exactly correspond, can be considered as interpolations, but are evidently as genuine portions of the Chronicle as they are of the Legend. For the better manifestation of the fact, all that portion of the Chronicle, which relates to Becket's life and disputes with the King, his murder and its consequences, and his translation, is given in the Appendix, from the Cottonian MS.,* and such references are made in the notes, from one text to the other, as will enable the reader easily to find the corresponding passages, and to arrive at the inevitable conclusion, that they have both proceeded from one mind and one pen. It might indeed be said that they are inseparably parts of each other, but for the fact that the details of Becket's history are omitted in the great compilation, founded on the basis of Robert of Gloucester's "Englysshe geste in ryme," which was finished on the 6th of August, 1448, and is preserved among the MSS. in the

* It will be seen in the Appendix that one whole line, omitted by Hearne, has been restored, by following the MS. rather than the printed text.

Heralds' Office.* In that copy, after the eighth line of the portion quoted in the Appendix, no fewer than eight pages and a half of Hearne's text are left out, and the following lines are inserted in the stead, amongst the prose additions made by compiler of that historical manuscript:—

“ And many other thingus mo, of Seynt Thomas dedes,
That felle by twixt him and the Kyng, in his Lif may me
rede.

In the xj. C. yere of grace, this good man, Seynt Thomas,
And lxxj. thus imartired was.” (Fol. 246.)

Let it not be supposed that these are genuine lines of the original poet, for the compiler of that manuscript has taken the liberty of altering Robert's text throughout, and of adding or omitting *ad libitum*. The variations, at the foot of Hearne's pages, are a proof of this; although they afford no adequate idea of the extent to which the original work has been altered, by the anonymous historian. It is remarkable that he refers, in the lines here quoted, to the “ Life” of Beket, which in all probability was the poem contained in these pages: for, although numerous Latin historians are quoted by name, in the prose additions, the only reference to a written testimony occurring in the old *ryme*, is to the metrical ‘ romance’ of

* Fully described in W. H. Black's Catalogue of the Arundel MSS., No. 58, pp. 104-110.

Richard Cœur de Lion, which is given at full length in the Heralds' MS., while here, probably by reason of the greater frequency of copies of the Saints' Lives, he contents himself with referring to the Legend of Thomas; and this reference may, perhaps, be regarded as the indication of an acknowledgment that the two works had proceeded from one author. ✓

There are fifteen or sixteen Lives of other English Saints contained in the work from which this of Beket is taken; among which may be traced some other correspondences with the same author's Chronicle. These, being short, may occupy the pages of some future publications of the Percy Society, and serve to throw some farther light on the interesting question of their authorship. Certainly they would greatly contribute to illustrate an edition of the metrical Chronicle, from the contemporary manuscript in the Cottonian collection, part only of which has been printed by Hearne, and that without the opportunity of collating his printed sheets with the original, by reason of his distance from London. Should the Editor's time permit, and the Council of the Society approve, he would gladly undertake the performance of what is due to so venerable a writer, and one who has for almost half his life been one of his favorite authors. ✓

The text of the following pages is taken from the Harleian MS. beforementioned, written little later than the author's own time. The Editor has thought proper to preserve, in every line, the *colon* which marks the *cæsura*, as in that and other antient copies: in the best manuscript of the chronicle a single point occurs, both in the middle and at the end of every line. In addition to a modern punctuation in other respects, he has carefully marked those syllables which need to be peculiarly accented or distinctly expressed, for the completion of the metre, which will be found tolerably regular, and equivalent (if each couplet were divided into four lines) to the later ballad-measure, or the 'common metre' and 'short metre' of modern psalmody. Hearne's glossary to the chronicle will serve equally to explain this legend, to those who are unaccustomed to the language of the thirteenth century.

The portrait of Beket, prefixed to this work, is copied in facsimile from an antient drawing with pen and ink, among other religious pictures, in the Black Book of the Receipt of the Exchequer, preserved in the Public Record Office, Rolls House; where it follows a Calendar of Saints' Days, and extracts from the Gospels, formerly used in the administration of oaths in the Court of Receipt. This picture is not less remarkable

for its apparent authenticity (being at least as old as Beket's translation in 1220) than for the singular fact of its escape from the destruction levelled by King Henry VIII against every relic and vestige of the saint that his fury could reach, not excepting his very name. The Society is indebted to the kindness of Mr. Fairholt, for the gratuitous execution of the engraving. ✓

W. H. BLACK.

Mill Yard, London,

27th June, 1845.

THE LIFE AND MARTYRDOM

OF

THOMAS BEKET,

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

GILBERT was Thomas fader name: that truë was and
god,

And lovede God and holi churche: siththe he wit un-
derstod.

The croicë to the holie lond: in his 3unghede he nom,
And mid on Richard, that was his man: to Ierusálem
com.

There hi dude here pelrynage: in holi stedës faste,
So that among the Sarazyns: ynome hi were atte laste,
Hi and other Cristene men: and in strong prisoun ido,
In meseise and in pyne ynou3: of hunger and chile also.
In strongë swynehë ni3t and dai: to ofswynehe here
metë stronge:

In such swyneli and hardë lyve: hi bilevede (hem
tho3të) longe. 10

For ful other half 3er: greate pyne hi hadde and schame,

In the Princes hous of the lawe: Admiraud was his
name.

Ac Gilbert of London: best grace haddē there,
Of the Prince and allē his: among alle that ther were.
For oftē al in feteres: and in othe[r] bende,
The Prince he servede atte mete: for him thoȝte hende.
And ofte the Prince al so god: in consail him wolde
drawe,

And of the manere of Engeland: him eschce, and of the
lawe.

So that me wolde his felawes: moche god oftē do,
For his love, and hi furde: the bet for him also. 20
And nameliche thurf a maide: that this Gilbert lovede
faste,

The Princes douȝter Admiraud: that hire hurte al upe
him caste;

That lovede him in durnē love: in gret murnynge
and in wo.

For the Princes heir heo was: for he hadde children no mo.
Of hire he hadde lutē blisse: and lutē harm hit was,
For heo com to betere ende: as ȝe schulle ihure that cas.
This maide that lovede so: this man durnēliche,
Heo spac tho heo seȝ hire tyme: with him priveiliche;
And eschtē him of Engēlonde: and of the manere there,
And of the lyf of Cristene men: and what here bile-
vē were. 30

The manere of Engēlonde: this Gilbert hire tolde fore,
And the toun het Londone: that he was inne ibore;
And the bileve of Cristene men: this blisse withouten
ende,

In hevene schal here mede beo: whan hi schulle hennē
wende.

“ Woldestou,” quath this maide tho: “ ho so it wolde
bede the,”

Tholie deth for thi Louerdes love?” this Gilbert seide “ ȝé;”
And that him werē swithleof: ho so him therto brouȝte.
Tho this maide him iseȝ so stedefast: heo stod longe in
thoȝte.

“ Ieh wole,” heo seide, “ al mi lond: leve for love of
the,

“ And Cristene womman bieome: if thu wolt spousi
me.” 40

Tho Gilbert ihurdē this: he stod in gretē thoȝt,
And feignede his word her and ther: and ne grantede
noȝt.

And seide he was al to hire wille: bote he moste bi thenche,
For he was stronge adradȝut: of wommanes wrenche.
He drof hire evere bi heste: this maidē longede sore,
And lovede him durnēliche: evere the leng the more.
Gilbert and his felawes siththe: as God the graeē sende,
Prisonn brekē and by niȝte: out of the londē wende.

Thereve amorwe that hem scholde: to herē labour lede,
Nuste he tho he mistē hem: what him was to rede. 50
Faste he sude after hem: he and othere mo,

Ae er hi come to Cristene men: me ne miȝt hem noȝt
ofgo.

Ae whan hi ne miȝte noȝ[t] hem oftake: aȝen hi turndē
tho,

And dude here beste aȝē the Prince: ae evereft he
was wo.

The maidē makede deol ynouȝ: that heo was evere ibore,
 For al the ioye of thisse lyve: hire thuȝte heo hadde
 forlore.

Heo wep and makede so moche deol: that me ne hurde
 nevere more,
 Ne telle of womman that me wiste: that love abouȝte
 so sore.

For bi niȝte heo wende alone: heo nustē whoderward,
 And of spensē with hire nom: to sichē Gilbard. 60
 And bilevede al hire grete heritage. and hire cun also,
 And ne sparede for no sorewe: that miȝte come hire to;
 Ne for siknisse, ne for deth: ne for sorewe, ne for wo,
 Ne for peryl in the see: na londe nothe mo;
 Ne that heo scholde among Cristene men: vilere than
 an hound beo,

Ne that hi ne knewe hire spechē noȝt: ne heo nuste
 whoderward teo;

Ne whar he scholde alyve: this Gilbert fyndē oȝt,
 Ne whar he wolde hire spousi: whan heo him hadde
 al isoȝt.

And nathēles heo wendē forth: with wel god pas.
 Hou thinȝth thou, nas heo hardi noȝt? for gode me
 thinȝth heo was. 70

Heo nom and eschte to Engēlonde: and gret peryl
 an hondē nom,

So that in pyne and wo ynou: atte laste heo com.
 And tho heo was alles thider icome: heo ne couthe
 Englisch word non,

Bote "Londone, Londone:" to esche whoderward gon.
 And therthurf me taȝte hire the wei: so that heo thider
 com,

And ȝeode aboutȝ as a best: that ne couthȝ no wysdom,
 As heo were of another wordle: that fole thicke
 ynouȝ,

To biholde such a mopiseh best: aboute hire ther drouȝ.
 And nameliche ȝungȝ childerne: and wyldȝ boyes also,
 For the wonder sude hire: and seornede hire
 therto. 80

So that mid noyse and eri ynouȝ: attan ende bi eas,
 Tho heo eom aȝȝ thulkȝ hous: ther this Gilbert was,
 As Seint Thomas was inne ibore: joyful was that eas,
 Ther is nouth an hospital: arerd of Seint Thomas.

As Richard therinnȝ was: the noyse he ihurdȝ there,
 Out he ȝeodȝ forte awaite: what that wonder were.

He stod, tho he hire ikneu: as a man that were forlore,
 In gret wonder he orn in: and tolde his louerd fore.

This Gilbert thoȝtȝ wonder gret: ac thenchȝsoun wel
 he thoȝte;

He het Richard that he hire nome: and amid a god
 wyf broȝte 90

Ther biside, that faire ynou: and with fair semblant
 hire nom.

Attan endȝ tho this Gilbert: bfore this maidȝ eom.

This maidȝ ful upriȝt iswoȝe: tho heo him iseȝ,

That deol was among al that fole: that ther was tho
 neȝ.

This Gilbert him huld somdel stille: as him nothing
 nere ;

Aȝ six Bischopes thulkȝ tyme: at Seint Poulȝ were,
 As hit were at a parlȝment: for neodȝs of the londe,

This Gilbert in this wonder cas: him gan understonde,
 And ȝeode and toldē everechdel: red alto afonge. ^[100]
 Therof hem wondrede alle: and in consail stodē longe.
 The Bischop furst of Chichestre: his avys seidē thanne,
 That hit was a bitokninge: of God and noȝt of manne;
 And that God wolde that hi were ispoused: and such
 cas sende therfore,

And that ther miȝte sum holi child: bituene hem beon
 ibore.

Therfore alle hi radde: and bituene hem gonne biseo,
 That this Gilbert hire scholde spousi: if heo wolde
 Cristene beo.

So that this maide amorwe: tofore this Bischops com.
 Hi radde hire for Gilbertes love: afongē Cristendom.
 “Wel fawe,” quath this maidē tho: “if he me wolde
 spousi oȝt.

“For ȝe mowe alle understonde: if y nadde that ithoȝt,
 “I nadde bileved al mi cun: and so wide him isoȝt,^[110]
 “Ne mid hunger and other wo: him so deore aboȝt.”

This maide ibaptized was: among the Bischop[s] echon,
 And heȝe men therate of the lond: ther were menion.
 For reverence of the heȝe cunne: and the gentyl blod
 also,

Of wham heo com, and for heo was: semee and fair
 therto.

Of this Bischops hi were anon: ispoused in the
 place.

Ech man mai siggē wel: that ther was Godēs grace.
 For the furste niȝt afterward: bitucne hem biȝute was

The godē child of wham we speketh: the holi Seint
Thomas. 120

This Gilbert amorwe: so gret wille him com to,
To wende eft to the holi lond: that he nuste what do.
Of his wyf was his mestē care: hou seholde fram hire
beo ibroȝt,

That was so ȝung, and heo ne couthe: of the londes
lawe noȝt.

So moche he carede durnēliehe: that hit was care
to isco,

His wyf was eke in gretē thoȝte: wherfore hit miȝtē beo,
And draddē that hit were for hire: for hi were is-
poused so.

Ne mai no man elenē telle: of here beire durne wo.

This ȝunge wyf noldē fyne: on hire louerd to grede,
Forte thenehēsoun of his sor: al elenliehe he hire
sede; 130

And hou his care was al for hire: to the holie londe to
wende.

“Sirč,” seide this godē wyf: “oure Louerd his grace
the sende!

“Lute we habbeth to gadere ibeo: and lutē joye afonge,
“And if thu wendest thanē wey: oute thu worst wel
longe.

“Ac noȝt for than ie biddē the: if thu haste wille
and thoȝt,

“In oure Louerdes servise to wende: ne lef hit for me
noȝt.

“For ieh hopie that mi Louerd: that me hath iwist
herto,

“The while that y ne kneu him noȝt: ȝut he wole also.

“And eke nou ic am of his: therfore ic biddē the,

“If thu wolt wende in his servise: ne lef it noȝt for
me. 140

“Ac bilef me Richard thi man: that mi wardeyn
mowe beo,

“That knoweth me and mi langage: forte ic the eft
iseo.”

Gilbert tho heo hurdē this: in gret ioy was ido,
He ordeyned wel his hous: and his meynē also;
And his wyf hou heo libbē scholde: fortē God sende
other sonde,

And wendē forth a Godes name: to the holi londe.

And was oute threo ȝer and an half: er he aȝē com.

Tho he com he fond his sone: a god goinge grom.

Theonige fair and manliche: as eni child miȝte beo,

Ech man tolde of him pris: that him miȝte iseo. 150

Wel he wax and itheȝ: and to eche godnisse drouȝ,

ȝung he was to skole iset: and spedde wel ynouȝ.

His moder him wolde aldai rede: and oftē on him crie,

To ledē chast lyf and clene: and fleo lecherie.

And lovie tofore allē thing: God and Seinte Marie,

And servie hem and holi churchē: and leve alle folie.

This child theȝ hit were ȝung: wel hit understod,

For seli child is sone ilered: ther he wole beo god.

Tho this child was bot in elde: of tuo and twenti ȝer,

His moder wende out of thisse lyve: that so wel him
loved er. 160

This child wold leng to scolē go: ac his fader him nolde
fynde.

For child that hath his moder ilore: his help is moe he
bi hynde.

This child thurf his fader heste: as man that no red
not,

Servede a burgeys of the toun: and his aecountës wrot,
So longë that he com to court: and was in god offiz
With the Archebischop of Canterbury: Sire Thebaud
god and wys.

He servede him so hendëliche: that in a lutë stounde,
He madeke him his consailler: so stedefast he him
founde.

His Aredekne he madeke him siththe: and dude al
bi his rede.

Swithe wel gan this Aredekne: holi ehurehë lede, 170
And stifliehe huld up hirë riȝtes: as meni men iseye,
And therof noldë tholie wrong: theȝ he seholde ther-
fore deye.

Wel ofte he wende to Rome: for holi churehe also,
(Suche prelatȝ nou an urthe: to fewe ther beoth ido,)
So that the Duc of Normandie: ymaked was al in pees,
Henri Kyng of Engëlund: after Stevene the Belees.
He lovede moehë wel to do: and gode men to him nom,
This Henri the godë Kyng: tho he to londë eom;
And fondede to habbe god consail: and wys thurf al his
myȝte,

Forto holdë riche and pore: and echë man to riȝte. 180
Of the Ardekne Thomas: me tolde him sone ynouȝ,
Hou he stable and wys: and to eche godnisse drouȝ.
Thurf the Archebischopes grant: he madeke him
Chanceler,

For evere me mounteȝ him above: that haveth mest poër.
 Tho Scint Thomas was iturnd: fram offiȝ of holi churchē,
 To a gret offiȝ of the wordle: therafter he moste wurche.
 Alto nobley of the worlde: his contenance he brouȝte,
 That me ne huld non so prout: theȝ other were in his
 thoȝte.

With more noblei he rod ynouȝ: than he was woned
 to do;

His loreyns weren of golde: stiropés and spores also.¹⁹⁰
 Thepley hesuede of houndes: and of hauekes also ynouȝ,
 As men thoȝte in echē poynte: alto prute he drouȝ.
 Ae in his hurte hit was another: hou so he him evere
 bere;

[And ever chaste thurghe al thyng: how so ever it were.]
 And evere he was for holi churchē: and for pore men
 also,

Aȝen the proutē eontekours: that wolde aȝen hem
 oȝt do;

To holde up the riȝtes of holi churchē: so moche wo he
 gan dryve,

Aȝen the lithere conteccours: that nuyede him of his
 lyve;

As the Archebischop tolde: wepingē wel sore,
 And othere ofte in priveité: that lovede him the
 more. 200

He wilnede mest of allē thing: and on oure Louerd gan
 crie,

That he moste with onur: levē thulke baillic,
 And ech other service of court: bi the Kynges gode
 wille,

For he ne miȝtē paye his court: bote he scholde his
soulē spille.

Ae the King him fond so stable: and so god eonsailler,
That he nolde maki for no thing: another ehaneeler.
He ne triste to non so moeche: ne ther nas non so heȝ,
That so moeche wiste his priveiteȝ: ne that him was so
neȝ.

So moeche he easte his hurte on him: that on his warde
he gan do

His eldeste sone Sire Henri: and his heire also; 210
That he were his wardeyn: and his ordeynour,
To wissē him after his wille: and to the Kinges honur.
The King wende to Normandie: to seo tourney there,
And bilevede his sone with Seint Thomas: that he his
wardeyn were.

Bothe the fader and the sone: so moeche here lovē easte,
Upē Seint Thomas the holi man: the while it wolde
ilaste;

Ther nas non in Engēlonde: that hadde so gret poēr,
Of the kyndom as Seint Thomas: that was Chaneeler.
Hit biful siȝththe that Sire Tebaud: (as God the graeē
sende,)

Tharehebisshop of Canterbure: out of this wordle
wende. 220

The erie was sonē widē eouth: among thue and
freo,

That Seint Thomas scholde after him: Arehēbisshop
beo.

The King also in Normandie: tho me tolde him the cas,
Anon bar his hurtē mest: to do ther Seint Thomas.

The Covent of Canterbury: desirede him also;
 So as men wolde: ibrouȝt hit was therto.
 At Westmynstre he was ichose: to thulkē heȝe poēr,
 The vyfte ȝer that he was: ymaked Chanceler.
 Of elde he was thulkē tyme: of four and fourti ȝer;
 His owe deth he afeng: and his owe martirdom ther.
 For the Kyng was in Normandie: ipresented he [230
 was

To his ȝunge sone in Engēlonde: for non other Kyng
 ther nas.

Ac theȝ hit wercaȝen his wille: he nolde hit noȝt forsake,
 Ac he eschte in whiche manere: he scholde the croicē
 take.

Me scide him that scholde afonge: holi churchē so freo,
 That heo ne scholde under no man: bote under the
 Pope beo;

Ne nothing thenche bote holdē up: holi churchē lawe.
 “In thisse manere,” quath Seint Thomas: “ic hire
 afongē fawe.”

A Witsonedai this was: that this dede com to ende,
 This gode man toward Canterbury: anon him gan wende.
 Al the contray with onur: to him com and drouȝ; [240
 Ther was for him in Canterbury: ioȝe and blisse ynouȝ.
 The dai of the Trinité: isacred he was,
 And afeng his digneté: the gode man Scint Thomas.
 Sirc Henri the Kynges sone: was at his sacringe,
 And sixtene Bischops ek: this dede to endē for to bringe.
 Tho this dede was ido: hi gonne to sendē sone,
 After his pallioun to Rome: as riȝt was to done.
 The Pope Alisandre: was tho at Montpailers,

Thider wende this wisē men: that were messagers.²⁵⁰
 The Abbot Adam of Evesham: to here eheveteyn hi
 nome,

To the Pope Alisandre: to Montpaillers hi eome.
 Here erande hi haddē sone: for he hem nothing ne
 wornde,

Hi neme of him here leve: and hamward aȝē turnde.
 And this pallioun was: to Seint Thomas ibrouȝt:
 This gode man hit afeng: with wel myldē thoȝt.
 Tho he was in his digneté: al elanliehe ido,
 He gan to ehangi al his lyf: and his manere also.
 The here he dudē next his liehe: his flesehes maister
 to beo,

Schurte and breeh streit ynouȝ: adoun to the kneo.
 For he thoȝte he miȝtē wel: of othere habbe maistrie,
 If he hadde of his owe fleseh: thurfout seignurye. ²⁶²
 If his soulē maister were: and his fleseh hire hyne,
 Him thoȝte he miȝte his digneté: bringē to god fyne.
 Above the herē siththe: thabyt of monek he nom,
 And siththē elerkēs robe above: as to his stat bicom.
 So that he was withinne monek: withoutē elerk also,
 Thurf thabyt that he hadde on him: priveiliehe ido.
 In penanee and in fastinge: he was niȝt and dai,
 And in oreisoun bote the while: he aslepē lai. ²⁷⁰
 Evere wan he massē song: he wep and siȝtē sore,
 Faste he hastede therwith: ne miȝtē no man more.
 Faire me fedde him attē mete: with great noblé and
 prute,
 And of the beste him silve he at: swithē sears and lute.

Of his ordres he was wel streit: and he was in greete
fere,

Forto ordeini eni man: bote he the betere were.

Idel nolde he nevere beo: bote evere doinge he was,

Of eche manere of betere lyve: nevere bischop nas.

Sire Henry the Kinges sone: that with him was ibroȝt,

Levede evere in his warde: fram him he noldē noȝt.²⁸⁰

The love that bituene hem was: such nas nevere
iseȝe,

Ne this child naddē of no man: more love ne fairere eye.

Siththe that hit biful that the King: fram Norman-
die com

To Engēlond, to loke the stat: of his kynēdom.

Seint Thomas nam with him: Sire Henri his sone,

And wendē faire aȝen him: anon to South Hamptonne.

Ther was ioȝe and blisse ynouȝ: tho hi togadere come,

Hi custen hem faste and clupte: and herede God ilome.

The King bilevede in Engēlond: to loke his kynēdom,

And to al his privei consail: Seint Thomas he nom;

And huld him evere as he dude er: his heȝiste [²⁹⁰
consailler,

And nolde his thonkes habbe ihaved: non other chanceler.

Ac natheles whan he eni thing: dudē aȝen riȝte,

Seint Thomas was ther aȝen: evere bi al his myȝte.

Siththe hit biful that the Bisshop: of Wircestre ded
was,

And Sire Gilbert Foliot: (as God ȝaf that cas),

That was Bisshop of Hereford: ibroȝt was ȝut to more,

And ymaked Bisshop of Londone: that ne reude him
noȝt sore.

So that both the bischopriches: fulle bothe in the
Kynges hond,

Of Wireestre and of Hereford: as lawe was of lond.

The Kyng ne ȝaf hem noȝt anon: ac he huld hem
inne longe, 301

In his hond that he myȝte: the more prou afonge.

Hit ne likede noȝt Seint Thomas: that holi churchē so,
Scholde for a lute coveitise: in the Kinges hond beo ido.

Him thoȝte that hit was wel moehel: aȝen oure Louerdes
wille,

And that the Kyng myȝte so: holi churchē spille.

In faire manere he bad the Kyng: that he ne scholde
bileve,

That thulke tui bischopriches: sum god man he ȝeve.

The Kyng anon myldēliche: grantede his bone,

And this bischopriches he ȝaf: tui godē men wel sone.

Sire Roger he makede a god man: Bisshop of Wireestre,

Sire Roberts sone that was: Eorl of Gloucestre. 312

Bisshop he makede of Hereford: a good man ynouȝ,

Sire Robert of Mulnes: that to alle godnisse drouȝ.

Anoȝt Seint Thomas thoȝte wel: that he ne miȝte
all paye,

The King ne his consail, bote he wolde: holi churchē
bitraye.

In care and sorewe he was ynou: hou he miȝte bestē do,

For he ne miȝte noȝt pae the Kyng: and oure Louerd
also.

Seint Thomas halewe thulke ȝer: the churchē of
Redinge,

That ifounded was and arerd: thurf Henri oure Kyng;

That lyth ther faire ibured: Williames sone Bastard. 321
 In thulkę 3er Seint Thomas ek: schryned Seint Edward,
 At Westmynstre as he lith: that bifore Kyng Williem
 was,

Bote King Harald him was bituene: for his poer no
 leng nas.

The love was evere gret ynou3: bituenę Seint Thomas
 And the King, forte the devel: hit desturbede, alas!
 Lute and lute the eontek aros: for porę manes ri3te,
 For paye oure Louerde and the King: no man ne mi3te.
 The furstę tyme that Seint Thomas: outliche him
 withsede,

Was for pouere men that the Kyng: dude an unri3t
 dede. 330

The King nom thurf al Engęlond: fram 3ere to 3erę
 wide,

After his wille a summe of pans: ideld in eehę side.
 And siththe he let thurf enqueste: thurf the conray
 enquere,

Hou moeh eehę man seholde paye: and what here ri3t
 were.

So longe that he nom it to taillage: and esehte hit
 attę laste,

Eehe 3ur thurf a eerteyn rente: thurf al Engęlondę
 faste.

What for eye, what for love: non him ne withsede,
 Ae evere tho3te Seint Thomas: that hit was an unri3t
 dede.

He tho3te on God and on his soule: and bilevede man-
 hede,

And to the King wel baldēliehe: wende withoutē
drede. 340

“Sire,” he seide, “if hit is thi wille: thu ert riehe and
hende,

“And Kyng of gret poër ynouȝ: oure Louerd thé morē
sende!

“A taillage thu hast eeh ȝer: thurf out al thi londe,

“And eschet hit for a certeyn rente: with unriȝt ieh
understonde.

“For certeyn rente sehal beo itake: eeh ȝer at a cer-
teyn day,

“And siththe a certeyn assigned: as thu wost by riȝtē
lay.

“Ae this nas noȝt eerteyn itake: eehe ȝer assigned is,

“Thurf enqueste of the contray: as taillage, iwis.

“Whar thurf me thinȝth a eerteyn rente: thu ne miȝt
noȝt make,

“Ae a taillage and sumdel: with unriȝt itake.” 350

“Thomas, Thomas,” quath the Kyng: “thu ert mi
Chançeler.

“Thu auȝtest bet holdē up: than withsiggē mi poër.”

“Sire,” quath this holi man: “ieh habbe ibeo with thé,

“And thu hast (God hit thé ȝulde): gret god ido me;

“Ae another baillie ieh habbe afonge: theȝ hit were
aȝen mi wille.

“And ynemaȝ noȝt bothē wel: bote ieh mi soule aspille.

“For ieh am alto lutē worth: that on forto loke.

“Thanne dude he gret folie: that mōrē me bitoke.

“Therefore ieh ȝuldē thé up here: al elene the ehan-
celerie,

“And takě me to holi churche: to God and Seinte Marie.” 360

Tho was the King wroth ynouȝ: wrothere than he evere was;

Ae nathēles his hurtē bar: evere to Seint Thomas.

The thridde thing ȝut mest of alle: in kontek hem brouȝte.

A preost ther was a lither man: that of God noȝt ne rouȝte,

That of manslaȝt was bieliped: and ynome also,
And in the Bischopes prisoun was: of Salesbury ido.
The manēs freond that was aslawe: suēde up him faste,
So that the preost to jugēment: ibroȝt was attē laste.
Me aeusede him faste of the dethe: ae he nanswerede
noȝt therto,

And huld him faste to holi churche: and upe non other nolde hit do. 370

Iloked he was to purgi him: thurf elergie if he miȝte,
And therof him was dai iset: thurf holi churchē riȝte.
Tho the dai him was ieome: he ne miȝte him purgi
noȝt;

He was sone ilad aȝen: and in prisoun ibroȝt.

Thanne was the Bischop in gret doute: what were therof to done,

Forto habbē wisere red: to Seint Thomas he sendē sone.
And he sendē worde aȝé: that he seholde the preöst take,
And desordeyni him of his ordre: and a lewed man of
him make;

And siththe in strong warde him do: that he nevere out ne wende,

In penanee and in pyne ynouȝ; his synne forto amende.
 The Bisep of Salesbury: dude Seint Thomas heste,³⁸¹
 So that this preöst was ibroȝt: in turmentȝ with the
 meste.

So that the tethinge therof: to the Kyngȝ eom,
 That a lither theof and a manquellere: haddȝ so liȝt
 dom.

Him thoȝtȝ that hit nas noȝt lawe: ne that hit miȝte
 beo so;

And Phelip de Boys a canoun: him haddȝ eke misdo.
 Therfore was eeh other clere: the more aȝen his wille,
 Him thoȝtȝ suh lawe scholde: the pays of londe aspille.
 He wilnede as god Kyng: pays in his londe,
 And in god ententȝ wel hit do: he dude ech under-
 stonde. 390

For the pays of the londe: he wolde holdȝ also fawe,
 As Seint Thomas in his manȝre; holi ehurehȝ lawe.
 He seidȝ that the develes lymes: that yerouned werȝ so,
 That miȝtȝ so al longȝ dai: aȝen his pays do.
 For the jugement was so lute: the lasse hi woldȝ doute,
 And do theoffthe and robberie: in al the lond aboute.
 To Westmystre he let sumni: the Bisepes of his londe,
 And Clerkes that grettest werȝ ek: and heȝist, ich un-
 derstonde.

“Beaus seignurs,” he seide: “ynot what ye habbeth
 ithoȝt:

“If ȝe goth forth mid ȝourȝ wille: oure pays ne worth
 riȝt noȝt. 400

“If a clerk hath a man aslawe: other gret theoffthe
 ido,

“ And heo mowe be desordeyned: and come to fynē so;

“ Misdo hi wolleth al longē day: and theruppē beo
wel bolde,

“ And so schal the pays of the londe: wol uvele beon
iholde.

“ For lute hi woldē recche: to loose here ordre so,

“ Whan for here ordre hi ne sparieth: theofthē forto do.

“ Ac evere the heȝire here ordre is: me thinȝth, bi
pur lawe,

“ The strongere scholdē here dom beo: whan hi wolde
to theofthe drawe.”

“ Sire, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “ (if hit is thi
wille),

“ Loth ous were do eni thing: thi pays forto aspile.

“ Ac clerkes that beoth yordeyned: thu wost hi bereth
a signe, 411

“ That hi beoth lymes of holi churchē: that so worthi
is and digne.

“ If hi were thanne with thulkē signe: to uvele dethe
ido,

“ Aviled werē and ischēd: holi churchē so.

“ If hi beoth furst desordeyned: for thulkē silvē dede,

“ And siththe thurf dom to dethe ido: hit nere noȝt
wel to rede.

“ For hit nas nevere lawe ne riȝt: doble dom to take,

“ For o trespas as thu wost: and sinne hit were to make.

“ And unworthere than a lewed man: holi churchē were so,

“ For a lewed man for o trespas: nis bote o jugēment ido.

“ Therfore thi gracē we bisecheth: (if hit is thi
wille,) 421

“That thu ne rere no nuë lawe: holi churehe to spille.

“For we biddeth niȝt and dai: as riȝt is that we do,

“For thé and for thi children ek: and for thi kynedom
also.”

“Beau sire,” quath the King tho: “thu saïst wel
ynouȝ:

“Ieh hadde loth bi myne coneïence: do holi churehe
enī wouȝ.

“Ac lawes ther beoth and eustomës: that evere hab-
beth ibeo iholde,

“Of bisehopes thurf al Engēlonde: as oure aneestres
habbeth itolde.

“And bi the Kyng Henriës dai: that oure ancêtre was,

“Iconfermed were and iholdē ek: that no man ther
aȝé nas. 430

“Woltou thulke lawēs holde? do me to understandē
sone.”

“We sehulle do, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “al that
is to done.

“Alle the lawes and custumës: we woleth holde bi
ourē miȝte,

“That beoth to holde and habbeth ibeo: sire, sauvé
ourē riȝte.”

“Sauf ȝourē riȝtēs?” quath the Kyng: “beau sire, whi
saïstou so?

“Inē scholde nothing bi that word: aȝé thi willē do

“That thu noldest siggē that hit were: aȝen holi churehē
riȝte;

“And bringē so al mi lond: in eontek and in fiȝte.

“Ac therwithoutē oldē lawes: siker ieh understonde,

“That hit beo venymous: to the pays of mi londe.”⁴⁴⁰

“Sire, sire,” quath this holi man: “ne meve ȝe ȝou riȝt
noȝt:

“Wel thu wost that ech of ous: er we were herto
ibroȝt,

“Trunisse thé sworē, as riȝt was: and urthlich onur also,

“Sauvé oure ordre and oure riȝt: ac that was out ido.

“Hou scholde we nouthē other do? ne auȝte ȝe ous noȝt
beode.

“For Godes love hold ous to riȝte: for ȝe nabbeth non
other neode.”

“Ich iseo wel, Thomas,” quath the King: “wharto
thu wolt drawe:

“Thu ert icome to latē forth: to bynyme ous ourē lawe.

“Thu woldest me make morē wrecche: than evere eni
kyng was:

“Thu ert icome therto to late: thu hast icast ambezas.”

The Kyng aros mid wraththe ynouȝ: and let hem sitte
echon, 451

And to his chambre wend forth: and no grettē noȝt on.

Fram Londone he wendē sone: in wraththe as theȝ hit
were:

He ne seide no man of his thoȝt: ac bilevedē hem there.

Tho Bischopes thoȝtē tho anon: that he was wroth ynouȝ,

Ther werē fewe bote Seint Thomas: that toward him
ne drouȝ.

On Seint Thomas hi cridē faste: his thoȝt forto wende,

Other he wolde al that lond: with thulke worth aschende.

Knyghtes and othere eft come: that with the Kingē
were,

And bedě him ententifliche: that he thulkě word forbere;
 And that him werě gret folie: the King in wraththě
 bringe, 461

And desturbi al that lond: for so lutě thinge.

Seint Thomas in thoȝtē longe: “Leove bretheren,” he
 sede,

“Nevere aȝe the Kynges honour: ynellě do no dede.

“Ae eeh word ich wole bileve: that aȝe the Kynges
 honour is.”

Tho were thothere glad ynouȝ: tho hi ihurdě this;

And radde him wendě to the Kyng: his wraththě for-
 to stille.

“Leof me were,” quath Seint Thomas: “mid riȝtē do
 his wille.”

To the Kyng he wende to Oxenford: and with him
 ther he fond 471

Gretě Eorlēs, and Barouns: the heȝiste of the lond.

The King him weleomedě so: mid wel lutě ehere.

Bisepopes he let elipie: and Eorlēs that ther were.

“Beau sires,” quath the King: “ich am Kyng: with
 riȝtēs of this londe:

“Custumes ther were bifore: yused ich understonde.

“And so moeche wreechě nam ynoȝt: that ynelle the
 lawēs holde,

“That oure aneēstres huldě wyle: as oure counsailou[r]s
 tolde.

“Therfore ich wole that thulkě lawes: ieonfermed beo
 cehon,

“Of myn Eorles and of myne Knyȝtes: that hi ne
 withsigge noȝt on.

“ Therefore ich hotē ȝou echone: that ȝe beo thulkē day,
 “ At mi manēr at Clarendone: withoutē ech delay, ⁴⁸⁰
 “ To confermi thulkē lawes: upe peyne that ich wole
 sett,

“ Ich hote that ȝe beo ther echon: that nothing ȝou ne
 lette.”

Siththē departedē this court: to his inne ech drouȝ,
 And evere was Seint Thomas: in care and sorewe
 ynouȝ.

The Bischops and the Barouns: come allē to the daye,
 To Clarendone in Wiltēshire: the Kyng forto paye.
 The parlēment him was iholde: in the elleveth ȝere
 Of the Kyngēs corónēment: that so moche fole brouȝte
 there.

And elleve hondred ȝer: in the furthe and sixti ȝer riȝt,
 Hit was after that oure Louerd: in his moder was aliȝt.
 Noble was the parlēment: of this Clarendone, ⁴⁹¹
 For ther were, furst and aforeward: the Kyng and his
 sone.

And the Archebischop of Canterbury: and Sire Roger
 also,

Tharchebischop of Everwyk: for nere ther bote thei tuo.
 And Sire Gilbert Foliot: Bischop of Londone,
 And the Bischop of Lincolne: were alle at Clarendone.
 And Sire Neol, Bischop of Ely: and the Bischop of
 Wircestre,

Sire Roger, and Sire Hillari: Bischop of Circestre.
 The Bischop William of Nortwich: and the Bischop of
 Wy[n]chestre,

Sire Henri, and Sire Bartlomeu: Bischop of Chichestre.

Sire Osbern, and Sire Godēfrai: Bisshop of Exceestre,⁵⁰¹
 Sire Austin, and Sire Blas: Bisshop of Wireestre.
 The Bisshop of Salesbury: Jocelyn, and Robert,
 The Bisshop of Herford: and also Sire Richard,
 The Bisshop of Chestre: this Bischops echon,
 Were at this parlēment: and Eorles meni on.
 Sire Renald Eorl of Cornwaille: and the Eorl of
 Leieestre,
 Sire Robert, and Sire Roger: Eorl of Gloucestre.
 Sire Conan Eorl of Bretaigne: and the Eorl John of
 Angeo,
 Sire Godefrai Eorl de Maundēvyle: was ther also. ⁵¹⁰
 Sire Hughē Eorl of Chestre: and Eorl Williēm of
 Ferērs,
 Were at this parlēment: stout ynou and fers.
 Barouns ther were meni on: as Sire Williēm de Luey,
 And Sire Renaud de Wareyne: and Sire Renaud de
 Seint Walry.
 Sire Roger Bigod also: Sire Richard de Caunvyle,
 Sire Williēm de Brewēsek: Sire Robert de Dunstanvyle.
 Sire Neel de Mountbray: Sire Umfrai de Booun,
 Sire Simon de Beauchamp: louerd of meni o toun.
 Sire Jocelin de Baillolf: Sire Williēm de Hastinge,
 Sire Hughē de Morevyle: that so wel was with the
 Kynge. 520
 Sire Williēm Malet: Sire Johan the Seneschal,
 Sire Simon le Fiz Peres: gret man thurfout al.
 Sire Williēm de Maudut: and Sire Godefrai de Veer;
 Thus allē gretē louerdlings: and ȝut mo were ther.
 Nou God helpē Seint Thomas: (for he was alone,)

That withseidē attē laste: this lordlings echone.
 Tho hi bigonne this parlēment: the King him esehteanon,
 Whar hi wolde the lawes holde: as his aneēstres dude
 eehon.

“Sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “if hit thi willē is, ⁵²⁹
 “Eeh man mot speke for him silve: and ieh for me iwis.
 “For my stat, and for holi ehurehe: ich ansuerie therto,
 “That alle the gode old lawes that habbeth ibeo: and ȝut
 beoth also,

Granti ich woli for holi ehurehe: and for to habbe
 thin ore,

“Sauf oure riȝt and oure ordre: thu ne miȝt esehe no
 more.”

For that word the King was wroth: that gan him evere
 mislike.

Seint Thomas wep in his hurte: and sorē gan to sike.
 Alto blodi was that word: and deore hit was ibouȝt,
 For therfore to dethe he was: attē laste ibrouȝt. ⁵³⁸
 The Bisshop of Northwieh: and of Salesbure also,
 Kneulede toforē him wepinge: that he scholde another do;
 And habbē reuthe of holi ehurehe: and of hem echone,
 That hi nere to grounde ibrouȝt: thurf thulkē word alone.
 Heȝe men of the Kinges eurt: meni on ekē wende,
 And kneulede toforē Seint Thomas: that word to amende.
 “Lordlings,” quath Seint Thomas: “ieh am ȝut ȝung
 man,

“And lūtē while bisshop ibeo: and lute theron ieh ean.
 “Therfore of this oldē lawes: transerit he me take,
 “And ieh wole ther uppe eonsailli me: whieh beo to
 forsake.”

The Kyng him let transcrit make: of this eustumes
echon:

Seint Thomas grantede somme: and withscidē meni on.
The lawēs that ieh wole ȝou telle: he grantedē wel
fawe:— 551

If a bonde man hadde a sone: to elergie idrawe,
He ne scholde withoute his louerd's leve: not ierouned
beo,

For thu man ne mai noȝt bote his louerd: beo ymaked
freo.

Another lawe he grantede ek: that ȝe mowe nou iseo:
If eni man of holi churehe: holdeth eni laifeo,
Persoun, other what he beo: he schal do therfore,
Servise that to the kingē falth: that his riȝt ne beo
forlore.

And in plaiding stonde in eehē place: and jugēment also,
Bote ther man schal beo bylymed: other to dethe ido.
He grantede ek if eni man: the kingēs traytour were,
And eni man his eatel: to holi ehurehē bere; 562
That holi ehurche ne scholdē noȝt: the eatel therē
lette,

That the kyng wel baldē liehe: out of the churehe hit
felte.

For al that the feloun hath: the kyngēs hit is,
And eehē man mai in holi ehurehe: his owē take iwis.
He grantede ek that a ehurehe: as of the kingēs ee,
In one stede evere and evere: ne scholde iȝevē beo,
As to hous of religioun: withoute the kingēs leve,
And that he, other the patroun: furst the ȝift ȝeve.
Seint Thomas grantede this: and felē othere mo, 571
Ac this othere he withsede: that dudē him wel wo:—

If bituene tuci lewede men: were eni strivinge,
Other bituene a lewede man and a clere: for holi
churchě thinge;

As for an avoweisoun of churchē: whether scholde the
churchě ȝyve;

The king wolde that in his hond: the plai were idryve:
Fora[s]moche as a lewed man: that o parti was,
Clanliche was under the kyng: and under the bischop nas.
That other was, that no bischop: ne clere nothě mo,
Ne schulde withoute the kinges leve: out of Engēlonde
go, 580

And thanne hi schuldeswerie here oth: upe the boc, iwis,
That hi ne scholde purchaci non uvel: the Kyng, ne
non of his.

The thridde was, that if eni man: in mansing were
ibrouȝt,

And siththe come to amendement: and aȝe riȝte nerě
noȝt;

That he ne swore noȝt upe the boc: ac borewes fyndě
scholde,

To stonde to al that holi churchē: with riȝtē lokie wolde.
The furthě was, that no man: that of the kinge huld oȝt,
In chief other in eni servise: in mansinge were ibroȝt;
Bote the wardeyn of holi churchē: that brouȝtē him
therto, 589

The king sende other his baillif: what he hadde misdo;
And loke ther wer he wolde: to amendement lit bringe,
And bote he wolde bi herě leve: dothanně the mansinge.
The vyftē was, that bischopriches: and abbeyes
also,

That vacantz were of prelatz: in kinges hond were ido;
 And the king sehaldē al that lond: in his hond take,
 Forte attē laste that him lustē: eni prelat ther make;
 And thulke prelat thannē sholde: in his ehapel ichose

. [beo],

Of his clerkēs which he wolde: to prelat biseo;
 And thannē whan he were ichose: in his ehapel riȝt
 there,

Homage he seholve him do: er he eonfermed were.⁶⁰⁰
 The sixtē was, if eni play: to chapitre were idrawe,
 And eni makede his appel: that me dude him unlawe;
 To the bischop fram arcedekne: his appel he sehouldē
 make,

And from bischop to archebisshop: and siȝthe non
 heȝerē take;

And bote the arehēbisshopes eurt: to riȝte him woldē
 bringe,

That he seholve fram thulkē curt: biclipie to the kyngē;
 And fram kinge no heȝere mo: and siȝthlē attan ende,
 Plaidinge fram holi churchē: to the kyngē sehouldē wende;
 And the king amendi seholve: the archēbisshopes dede,
 And beo in the popēs stede: that Seint Thomas with-
 sede. 610

The sovethe is, that plaiding: that of dettē were,
 To ȝuldē wel with truthe ipliȝt: and noȝt iȝuklē nere.
 Al theȝ thurf truthē were the play: hit sehouldē beon
 ibrouȝt,

Bifore the king and his baillifs: and to holi churchē
 nonȝt.

The eiȝtethē was, that in the londe: eitaieoun non nere,

Thurf bulle of the pope of Rome: ac al clene ileved
were.

The neoȝethe was, that Peteres pans: that me
gadereth meni on,

To the pope nere not on isend: ac to the king echon.

The teothe was, if eni clerk: as feloun were itake,
And for feloun iproved: and ne miȝte hit noȝt forsake;
That me scholde him furst desordeyny: and siththē
thurf pur lawe, 621

And pur jugement of the lond: bringe him out of
dawe.

The King thuse custumes pultē forth: and meni
other anon,

And het thurfout al Engēlond: holdē hem echon.

This was bifore the Candelmasse: the furthe dai ido:

The King het tho Seint Thomas: and other Bis-
chopes also,

On this chartre sette here seles: that non aftertalē nere,
Ac thurfout al Engēlond: that this custumes iholdē
were.

“Sire, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “for Godēs love
thin ore!

“To consailli ous bet ȝif ous furst: er we speķē more.”

So that respit was iȝyve: and ech wende in his side:

Seint Thomas nom his transcrit: and nolde nolengabide..

To Winchestre he wendē thanne: with sorwe and care
ynouȝ, 633

Hou he myȝtē holi churchē: schuldē fram his wouȝ.

Whan other men were faste aslepe: he wep and siȝtē
sore,

And bad God helpē holi churchē: and eride him milce
and ore.

He seȝ ther nas bot o wei: other he moste stif beo,
Other holi churchē was bynethē: mid riȝte that was so
freo.

Carful he was and sori: that he toc on so,
Forto entri in answere: ther ne scholde non do; 640
That he afeng the transcrit: and furst hadde ibede,
For him thoȝte al holi churchē: he misdude in the stede.
For holi churchē ne scholdē noȝt: in none stede stonde
to dome,

Ne answere to kyng ne prince: bote the pope of Rome.
The deol that Seint Thomas makde: no tongē telle
ne may:

“Louerd!” he seide, “allas, allas: that ich evere iseȝ
this day!

“That ich, the warde of holi churchē: so folliche
scholdē take,

“So freo as heo was cr: so thou nou hire make!

“Heo that was so freo and heȝ: bi myn aneēstres daye,

“That ich scholde hire bynethē bringe: (allas) and so
bitraye! 650

“For this martirs that felē were: for hire to deȝthe ido,

“And heo is thu thurf me ymaked: allas! whi dude
ich evere so?

“Unworth ich am of holi churchē: wardeyn forto
beo,

“And of unworthe therto ynome: as meni man mai
iseo.

“For ynam (as riȝt were): fram non ordre ynome,

“Ae fram Kinges eourt to holi ehurche: uvele wolde
hit bicomel

“Of houndes ieh was and hauekes: wardeyn with the
Kyng;

“And wardeyn am of soulës nouthe: that ne vieth
nothing.

“Ieh, that forsoe myn owë soule: the while ich was
Chaneeler,

“So meni soulen hadde to loke: allas what do ich her!

“Ieh doute that God me hadde forsake: hou tok ich
on? allas!” 661

The deol that makede this holi man: withoute ende
evere hit was.

He wep and siztë niȝt and dai: he huld him silve for-
lore;

And if he miȝte asoilled beo: to the Pope he wolthe
therfore.

So he wende toward Canterbury: sone the Kyng me
tolde,

That tharchëbischop nolde: noȝt his statutz holde.

To the see he wende: toward Rome: that no man hit
nuste,

Bote tueye that he tok with him: that of his consail
mest wiste.

Siththe whan his men him miste: and nuste whar he
bicom,

And seȝe that hi were louerdles: ech of hem his red nom.
For to do everech his beste: to wende ech in his side,
As men that were louerdles: and nuste noȝt wher
abide. 672

This holi man wende forth: and dude him into schip
sone,

And wendē forthward in the see: as he thoȝte to done.

The wynd eom, as oure Louerd hit wolde: and drof
hem aȝé to londe,

Siththe he wende him eft into the see: passage forto
fonde.

The wynd him drof eft aȝé: and ȝut in he wende,

And evere he was aȝen idryve: as onre Louerd the grace
sende.

Tho iseȝ wel this holi man: that hit nas noȝt Godēs
wille,

That he the ȝut of londē wende: he turnde aȝé wel
stille. 680

On of his serjantz sat aniȝt: the whilē that men woke,

In his in at Canterbury: the chambre forto loke.

In theveninge he bad his knave: the dore to stekē
faste,

The knavē wende toward the dore: and his eȝen aboutē
easte.

Tho seȝ he Seint Thomas: in an hurnē stonde,

He orn and tolde his maister fore: and thonkede Godēs
sonde.

The serjant ne leovede hit noȝt: ae natheles up he aros,

And fon Seint Thomas in an hurne: sumdel him agros.

Ther was sone joye and blisse: that fole to him drouȝ,

And woleome him and madeke feste: with joye and

blisse ynouȝ. 690

Hi leidē bord and spraddē cloth: and gonne to sopi faste.

Seint Thomas wel myldēliche: tolde hem attē laste,

Whoder he thoȝtē habbe iwende: and what cas God him
sende,

And hou hit nas noȝt Godēs wille: that he the ȝut wende.
Tethinges to the Kyngē come: hou this gode man
Seint Thomas,

Aȝen the statutz of Clarendone: of londe iwendē was.
For the statut was, that no bischop: scholdē for non
ende,

Withoutē levē of the Kyngē: out of londē wende.
The King sende anon his men: to seisi al his lond,
And tharchebischopriche also: as traitours, in his hond.
The baillifs come to Canterbury: as hi ihotē were;
Tho hi wendē habbe here wille: hi fonde Seint Thomas
there. 700

Nothing ne miȝten hi seisi tho: thanē wei hi hadde
forlore,

As hi come hi wende aȝē: and tolde the Kingē fore.
ȝut Seint Thomas thoȝtē eft: forto fondi more,
If he miȝte habbe of the Kingē: betere milce and ore.
He ȝarkedē him wel myldēliche: and to him thane
wei nom,

He fond him at Wodēstoke: and to him thider he com.
As his urliche louerd: he grette him faire ynouȝ,
The Kyng bihuld him al anhoker: and scornliche som-
del louȝ. 710

“Thomas,” he seide, “hou goth this: beo we so gretē
fon,

“That we ne mowe beo in one londe: Thomas, hou
schal this gon?”

“Sire, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “so ne schal hit
nevere beo,

“Ac God sende holi churchē: betere grace to thé.

“And sende thé wille to loven hire bet: and God for
his miȝte.

“Ne lete me nevere aȝen thi wille: do thing mid
unriȝte.”

This Archebischop of Canterbure: fondede forto bringe
Acord and love, bi his poër: bituene him and the Kyngē.
The King swor anon his oth: that non other acord he
nolde,

Bote the statutz of Clarendone: ech bishop holdē
scholde; 720

And nameliche theo for alle other: if a clerik hadde
mido,

And for feloun iproved were: and for theof also,
That me scholde him anon desordeynen: and siththē,
thurf lawe,

The Kingēs baillyf delyvri him: to anhongē other to
drawe.

Seint Thomas isē; wel tho: that ther nas wei bote on;
Other he mostē withstonde: other his riȝtes forgon.

He thoȝt that holi churchē: he nolde neverē bitraye,
And that he nolde nevere in suehe servage: bringe hire
bi his daye.

Rathere he wolde, as othere were: to martirdom beo ido,
Than holi churchē were to bynethe: iredi he was therto.
Nevere ne miȝte the King and he: nothing acordi
there, 731

Ac departede al in wraththe: as hi dude ofte ere.

The King him makede wroth ynouȝ: that so ofte in
bare was,

For o man that him withsede: and non other aȝen him
nas.

In gretē wraththe he swor his oth: that he wolde of
him beo awreke,

If he moste abide the dai: and with tungē speke.

He let somni Seint Thomas: the nexte Thursdai that
ther were,

Before Seint Lukes dai, at Norhamptone: to ȝeve him
ansuere there.

Andalle the Bischops of the lond: and the Barouns also,
He let to beo ther thulke dai: al his heste to do. 740

Seint Thomas londēs ek: in his hond hi nome,

As to distreigny him: that to his court he come.

Nou God helpe Seint Thomas: for other help nadde
he non,

Among so meni tirantz to come: that allē were his
fon!

Bodi and soulē he bitok: Iēsus Godēs Sone,

And at his dai isumned: he wende to Norhamptone.

In the castel sat the curt: bifore the tirantz eehone,

This holi man a Godēs name: wende among hem one.

“Sire King,” he seidē, “God thé loke: and sauve thi
digneté!

“Isumned ieh am to this dai: to answère t o tlé. 750

“Arehebishop of Canterbure: nas nevere isumned so;

“Ne distreigned of nothing: ynot what thu thenȝst do.

“Inot what is thi nuē lawe: that thu gynst forth to
drawe,

“Bote hit beo on of Clarendone: that thu thenȝst
bringe to lawe.

- “On me nastou poër non: such distresee to do,
“Imaked ich am wardeyn of holi churchē: theȝ ynē
 beo noȝt worthi therto.
“Thi gostlich fader ich am: theȝ thu of me lutē lete;
“Hit nas nevere ordre that the sone: the fader schuldē
 bete,
“Ne that the disciple beote his maister: al this were
 aȝé lawe.
“Al this (ho so riȝt bihalth): thu gynnest forth to
 drawe, 760
“And the Bischops also god: that wardeyns beoth
 mid me,
“To holde thonur of holi churchē: and the heȝe
 dignetē,
“Beoth aboutē hire to schende: and bringē to vyltē,
“Nou God ȝyve holi churchē: betere grace to thé!
“If thu wolt ouȝt toward me: thu wost wel ynemai
 noȝt fiȝte,
“Iredi ich am the deth to afonge: for holi churchē riȝte.”
“Inle no man,” quath the King: “for holi churchē
 quelle.
“Beau sire, thu spext as a fol: another thu most
 telle.
“Com to morwe to spechē tyme: that thu thane dai
 ne breke;
“And ich wole of other thinges: thannē to thé speke.”
Thus ther departede the court: amorwe thane Fridai,
Seint Thomas wendē thider aȝé: tho he thane tyme
 isay, 772
The King sat anheȝ on his cee: and acopede him faste.

“Thu were,” he seide, “mi Chanceler: alto longe hit ilaste.

“Ich thé lende vyf hondred pound: and thu ne ȝolde noȝt on:

“Scte me therof a schort dai: and thu me schalt paye echon.”

“Sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “God sende ous bet thin ore!

“Ině wende not of thulkě pans: ȝulde acountes no more.

“For ich haddě thulkě tyme: betere grace of ynouȝ,

“Of thé, than ich habbě nou: and that me thinȝth is wouȝ. 780

“Godě grace ich hadde to thé: thu me lovedest ynou tho;

“And thulkě pans thu ȝevě me: and ȝut thu woldest wel mo.

“Wel ich am therof iknowe: that ich hem feng of thé;

“And of thi ȝiftě with gode hurte: for sikere thu ȝave hem me.

“And so heȝ man as thu ert: hit miȝtě wel beȝ stille,

“To axi a thing that thu ȝeve er: with thi godě wille.”

The King him eschte if eni man: thulkě ȝifte isay,

And whar he miȝte the ȝiftě prove: “Sire,” he seidě, “nay.”

“Nou lordlings,” quath the King: “wel ȝe hureth this.

“Of the gareloun he is iknowe: that ich him bitok, iwis:

“Ae the ȝifte ne mai he provi noȝt: as ȝe mowe alle 791
iseo.

“Jugement ieh axi of this eurt: hou hit mai therof beo.”
 The court him lokede, as he was: iknowč of the thinge,
 That he schulde al the eatel: ȝuldě to the Kinge.
 The King him het the pans ȝelde: other sikernisse
 him make;

Other his marsehal scholde his bodi: into prisoun take.
 Seint Thomas of his bischopriehe: hadde wel lutě god:
 As helples man among his fon: withoute consail he stod.
 The marschals iredi were: to prisoun him lede anon:
 Hi heten him sikernissě fynde: other he scholde with
 hem gon. 800

This holi man nuste other red: bote suffrede alle here
 wouȝ.

Somme godě men that ther stode: hadde of him ruthe
 ynouȝ.

Vyf Knyȝtēs nomě hem to rede: and wendě to the
 Kynge;

And nome anhond for Seint Thomas: al that ilkě
 thinge,

Ech of hem an hondred pound: for this holi man to
 paye.

Tho was he al quyt ynouȝ: as to thulkě daye.

Amorwe thaně Saterdai: aȝen to court he wende,
 Forto hure the Kyngěs wille: if his hurtě wolde
 amende.

The King sat adoun in his see: Seint Thomas tofore
 him stod.

“Belami! thu hast,” (quath the King): “istole me
 mochě god. 810

“ To longe thu were mi Chanceler: and haddest in thin
honde

“ Abbeyes and bischopriches: and the more del of mi
londe;

“ And ne ȝulde me none accountes: therof merueth sore,

“ That of thritti thousand pound: thu schalt me and
more.

“ Therfore make the ȝare inouȝ anon: thine accountes
to ȝulde,

“ For siker thu beo, thu schalt hit do: if ich mai thé
welde.”

Alle that ihurdē this demande: in gret wonder hi
stode there;

And seide among hem ech to other: that hi ne hurde hit
never ere,

And that Seint Thomas was albynethe: and that he
upe the poyntē was,

To beo icast in prisoun: and non other wei ther nas.

Sciint Thomas stod in thoȝtē longe: of that the King
him hadde ised, 821

And bad he moste him conseilli: and therof nyme his
red.

The Bischopes he nom to consail: the King ne wornde
him noȝt:

In a chambre faste iloke: alle hi were ibrouȝt,

That hi ne scholde ascapie noȝt: er hi respounsē sede.

“ Nou lordlings,” quath Seint Thomas: “ herof ȝe
mote me rede.

“ For so God bringe me out of care: ynabbe therof
gult non;

“Ac me to schende he axeth hem: mid unriȝte echon.

“For ich was er mid him wel ynouȝ: and that me
bringeth nou in teone;

“Therefore ne tok ich no witnisse: of that ous was
bituene.” 830

The Bischop Henri of Wynchestre: furst bigan him
rede.

“Sire,” he seide, “thus me thingȝth: thu miȝt do of
this dede.

“Thu miȝt sigge that thulkē tyme: that thu were mid
the Kynge,

“Ne tho thu wendest of his baillie: he ne axede thé
no thinge;

“And thu aſonge the biſchopriche: so clenē and so freeo,

“That thu of non other thing: ne ſcholdeſt icharged
beo;

“And quath thé quit al clenliche: eche other curē ther.

“And thé neſchte nothing of node: that thu haddeſt
ido er.

“Whar thiurf me thingȝth that of nothing: thu ne ſchalt
anſuere noȝt,

“Bote to wardi holi churchē: of alle othere thu ert
ibroȝt.” 840

The Biſchop Gilbert of Londone: ſeide tho his avys.

“Sire,” he ſeide, “if thu theinȝſt: as god man and
wys,

“What god the King thé hath ido: and to what poēr
ibroȝt,

“And hou lute god ther wolē come: of ſuch wonder
thoȝt.

“And in which wo thu bringest ous alle: and holi
ehurche also,

“And peryl of thyn owě bodi: bote thu his willě do;

“If thu al this understode: me thencheth, iwis,

“That thu seholdest fōndi him to paye: ellēs thu dost
amis.”

Tho seide the Bischop of Wireestre: “Sire Gilbert,
beo stille!

“We suspendieth such consail: for hit nis noȝt worth a
spille.” 850

The Bischop Hillari of Chiehestre: bigan to spekě tho:

“Sire,” he seide, “mi consail is: hou so hit evere go,

“In faire manère to fonde: to paye this Kinges wille,

“With faire bihestě forte eftsone: that hit werě stille.

“Thanne we miȝtě, whan we were: of this destresce
ibroȝt,

“The bet cheve of oure consail: for nou ne do we
noȝt.”

The Bischop Robert of Lineolne: raddě wel therto:

“Sire Arehebischop,” he seide: “for Gode thu must
do so.

“Other thu lust thi bischopriehe: other peráventure
thi lyf;

“And thanně thu biȝetest lute: (me thinȝth) with thi
strif.” 860

The Bischop Bartholomeu: bigan to sigge his thoȝt:

“In sorwe of the wordle: and care we beoth ibroȝt.

“Betere hit were that on heved: in peryl him broȝte,

“Than holi churchē were bynethe: and ibroȝt to
noȝte.”

The Bisehop Roger of Wircestre: longe in thožtě
stod:

“Inele” he seidě “sigge on no other: for ynot what
is god.

“If ieh rede forto abowe: to the Kyngěs wille,

“Mi owě mouth mi soulě demeth: al holi churehe to
spille.

“Ac if ieh rede ažen him beo: in this place som is,

“That wolě telle the Kingě fore: and make him mi fo,
iwis.”

870

Bi the Bisehop of Londone: thulkě word he sede,
That ažen Seint Thomas was: mid word and mid dede.

Therfore he seidě “on no other: ynellě sigge, iwis:

“God consail God ous ževe: for al need hit is.”

Hi alle ne eouthě this consail: bringě to god ende;

Ne devise hi mižtě best: out of chambre wende.

Attě last this consail al: moste upe Seint Thomas gon:

Tuei Eorlēs of the Kingěs hous: he let elipie anon.

“We habbeth,” he seide, “lordlings: ispekě of this
thinge;

“And as furforth as we mowe: we wolles paye the
Kinge.

880

“And for we nabbeth al iredi her: ourě consail elene,

“Forte nextě dai we biddeth furst: that že granti ous
nou ene.”

Tho that furst was igranted: and eeh wende in his weye,

Meni of Seint Thomas men: levede him for eye;

And Knižtes that were ek with him: al framward him
drowe.

Seint Thomas nom bi the wei: porě men ynowe,

And ladde hem hom to his in: and to the mete hem sette,

And servede hem his owë bodi: and mete ynouȝ hem fette.

“This beoth,” he seide “godë knyȝtes: other men me habbeth forsake;

“Thusë kniȝtes ich lovie more: to hem ich wolë take.”
The Sonedai there nas no court iholde: for the heȝë day: 891

The Monedai Seint Thomas: sorë sik lay.

The the uvel of mandeflane: that oftë to him com;

And for the care that he was inne: wel thë worse him nom.

Me seide him makede him sek: for he ne therste forth wende:

The King in gret wraththe ynouȝ: after him let sende.

“Wel ȝe seoth,” quath Seint Thomas: “that ynemai come noȝt:

“Ae eertës tomorwe ich wole: hou so ich beo thider ibroȝt.

“Theȝ ich scholde beo thider ibore: in barewe other in bere,

“Thider ich wole, thurf Godës grace: God me helpë there!” 900

Amorwe thanë Tuësdai: oure Louerd him gan arere;

Thane morwe after Seint Lukes dai: as hit ful in the ȝere.

Thulke dai he auȝte understonde: and meni another also;

For bi eustùme al his anuy: bi Tuesdai com him to.

Alle the Bischopes thane Tuësdai: erliche to him wende:
 “Sire,” hi seide, “in feble poynt thu ert: God thi stat
 amende!

“We habbeth therof with oně mouthe: oure red ynome
 echon;

“We redeth thé to paye the King: hou so hit evere gon;

“Other we wolleth thé bere anhond: that thu ert his
 traitour,

“And forswore, whan thu swore: to don him urthlich
 honour, 910

“And dost him nou a tricherie: as he thé wole bere
 anhonde,

“And bynyme thi stat bicas: and bringe thé of thi
 londe.”

“Mi leově bretheren,” quath Seint Thomas: “3e sig-
 geth wel echon,

“That al the wordle gret on me one: and alle beoth
 myně fon;

“And, that is mest reuthe 3ut of alle: 3e that myne
 bretheren beoth,

“And me (the3 ich sinful beo): 3oure fadere in tur-
 ment iseoth,

“And beoth myne mestě fon of alle: and also beoth
 al3are,

“In seculer court me to deme: and that nele no3t wel
 fare.

“For 3e habbeth among 3u, this tui dayes: bispekě
 that ilome. 919

“Nou God helpe holi ehurche: and nymě therto gome!

“Ae in obedienee ich 3u hote: that 3e ther ne3 ne beo,

“If ich am ibrouȝt to jugement: ac rathere that ȝe fleo.

“And if eni man hond on me set: ich ȝou hote also,

“That ȝe sentence of holi churchē: for suche violence do;

“And holdeth up the riȝtes of holi churchē: that ȝou beoth bitake,

“For ynē schal for no drede of deth: hirē riȝtes forsake.”

Tho Bischopes were tho wroth ynouȝ: and wende to court echone.

Nou God helpe Seint Thomas: for he was alone!

Bote the Bischop of Wynchestre: ther ne bilevede with him not on,

And the Bischop of Salesbury: that nere fram him agon. 930

Seint Thomas tristē al to God: and greithede him anon,
And song a masse of Seinte Stevene: er he com among his fon.

He song oftē thulkē masse: for, as heo doth bigynne,
The furste office is propre ynou: to the stat that he was inne.

The bigynning of thulkē masse: in Angliſch is this,

“For whan princes habbe isete: and aȝē me ispeke, iwis,

“And lithere men pursuede me: Louerd, myn help thu beo!”

Meni seide that this ihurde: herbi me mai iseo,
That he singeth the masse for than one: for the King and for his;

For he halth hem allē lithere men: that aȝen him spek-
eth, iwis. 910

This word com to eourt sone: wher thurf hi were
eehon,

In the more angusse aȝen him: and the more his fon.
And sonne of the Kinges conseillers: to him oftē wende,
And seidē, bote he hulde him stif: al his lond he
schende.

If he grantede Seint Thomas: at thulkē tyme his
wille,

His poēr in his londē were: nevereft worth a fille;
Bote lete the elergie al iworthe: and holde him silvē
stille,

And clerkēs diȝtē al his lond: and al his reaume aspile;
And attē laste bi here owe wille: maki kinges and
cheose,

And so schulde ech king after him: his franehisē leose:
Therfor he moste him wel bithenehe: and ne flecchi
noȝt. 951

Suchē wordes and meni other: apeirede moche his
thoȝt.

Tho Seint Thomas hadde his masse ido: his cheisible
he gau of weve,

And allē thother vestimentz: he let on him bileve.

Other armure nadde he none: for holi ehurehe to
fiȝte:

God almiȝti beo his help: bi daye and bi nyȝte!

Forth wende this godē kniȝt: among alle his fon:

Nou swete Iēsu beo his help: for other help nadde
he non!

The croice he bar on his hond: and arerde up his
baner:

The Bischop Robert of Herforde: anon wende him ner.
“Sire,” he seide, “ich crie thin ore: thi chapeleyn
make thu me! 961

“Bifore thé let me bare thi croice: for hit ne falleth
noȝt to thé.”

“The while ich hire bere,” quath Seint Thomas: “and
tofore me iseo,

Ině doutie of no man: the hardiere ymai beo.”

Tho seide the Bischop of Londone: that evere was his
fo,

“Ině redě noȝt that thu: tofore the Kingě so go.

“For wraththe he wolde anon: awreke him in the
place.”

“Ich bitake me,” quath Seint Thomas: “al to Godēs
grace.”

“ȝe, al thi lyf,” quath this other: “a fol thu hast ibeo,

“And that neltou nevère bileve: as me mai nou
iseo.” 970

Seint Thomas thus, with his croiz: into court gan gon:
Tho he seȝ him comě so: he wraththede him anon.

“Lordlings,” he seide, “her ȝe seoth: hou this man me
schent;

“In whiche manère is he in this court: among ous
iwent,

“As ynč bileovede noȝt in Cristendom: ne in oure
Louerdes name.

“Ne mot ich nede awrekě beo: whan he me doth such
schame?”

Tho seidē al the court anon: “Sire, ȝe mowe iseo,
 “That he is prout and conteckour: and evere hath
 ibeo.

“And in despyt of thé and thyne: this dede he hath
 ido;

“And, if thu wolt, thu miȝt beo war: eft to take on so,

“To bringē in so gret poēr: such on as he is, 981

“To the heȝiste of thi londe: as thu makest him, iwis.

“Therefore we ne bymeneth thé noȝt: for thu noldest
 beo iwar bifore,

“That we sigge alle bi him: that he is purliche for-
 swore.

“As bi a such man, do bi him: and as bi on of thi fon;

“For he swor thé urthlich onur: and he ne doth thé
 non.”

The bedēlēs and other sehrewen: on him grenede faste;

And ibide the Kingēs heste: in prisoun him to caste.

The King let erie anon aboute: if eni so wod were,

That Seint Thomas consaillde: and eumpaignye bere;

Ae as the Kingēs traïtour: me scholde him nyme anon.

Nou swetē Jesus beo his help: among alle his fon! 992

The Bischop of Exeestre: to Seint Thomas ful akneo,

“Merçi,” he seide, “for Godēs love: for sorewe thu
 miȝt iseo.

“Have reuthē of thé and of ous: other thu wolt ous
 allē sehende.

“We wortheth alle ibrouȝt to noȝt: bote thu thi thoȝt
 wende.”

“Sire Bischop,” quath Seint Thomas: “thu miȝt as
 wel beo stille;

“Go hunnēs; of thé ne kepe ynoȝt: do ech man his wille.”

The Bischops wende to gadere alle: and here consail nome,

And tho he hadde here forme iset: to the Kinge hi come. 1000

“Sire,” hi seide, “anuyed thu ert: and ous hit ofthinketh sore:

“Forȝif ous that ȝe ous bereth anhond: and we ne schulle misdo nomore.

“Wel we witeth hit is a wreeche: that scholde oure chieȝ beo:

“Fals he is, and forswore: and that ech man mai iseo.

“For he swor to holde thé urthliche onur: and hath ibroke his oth,

“And that we schullē proven wel: ne beo he noȝt so wroth.

“Forȝif ous thi wraththe, we thé biddeth: and to Rome we woleth wende,

“To bynyme him his bischopriche: and as a wreeche him schende.

“Forswore we woleth him provi: sirē, bi ȝoure rede.”

The King bihet hem gret honor: for do thulkē dede.

To Seint Thomas, ther as he was: hi wende alle anon; 1011

The Bischop Hillari of Chichestre: tolde for hem echon.

“Sire,” he seide, “oure gostliche fader: thu were her bifore;

“Ae for fader nou we forsaketh thé: for thu ert fals
and forswore.

“For thu swore him urthlieh honur: and nelt him
do non,

“Therfore to the court of Rome: we bielipieth hit
eehon.”

Nou, swete Iësus, beo his help: whan alle othere were
fon!

The King let elipie faste: that he come forth anon.

The Eorl Robert of Leicestre: and othere menion,

Come after him, and hete him sone: bifore the Kingě
gon. 1020

“Lordlings,” quath Seint Thomas: “ȝe witeth wel
echon,

“Hou wel ich was w[i]th the Kinge: theȝ ich have nou
lither iwon.

“Arehebischof he makede me: to sothe, aȝe mi wille:

“For ich draddě for uneonnynge: mi soulě to aspille.

“Tho eschte ich tofore al that folc: in whiehe manere
hi hit me toke,

“The maistrie of holi churehe: to wardi and to loke.

“He me tok holi elurche: in eehe manère so freo,

“To beo quit of al other court: and mid riȝtě scholde
so beo.

“And whan holi churehe is so freo: ynele answère the
Kinge,

“Ne non other of his court: of non urthlieh thinge.

“For gold ne passeth noȝt in bounté: somoche leode, iwis,

“As digneté of preösthod: passeth the lewed man
that is. 1032

“ And his gostliche fader ich am: if he wolde nymě
ȝeme;

“ And hit nere noȝt that the sone: his fader scholdě
deme.

“ Therfore ich siggě, at o word: ynele me nothing
take,

“ To jugement of Kinges court: ac outliche hit for-
sake;

“ And take me alto holi churchē: and to non other
dome,

“ And biclipic tofore ȝou alle: to the court of Rome.

“ Sauf the stat of holi churchē: and mi digneté,

“ That Jesu Crist hit sauvi: whan hit ne mai noȝt
thurf me. 1040

“ And ȝou bishops ich biclipie: to the court of Rome
also,

“ That ȝe honuryeth more an urthlich king: than ȝe
God almiȝti do.”

And so thurf riȝt of holi churchē: out of this court
gan wende,

To bringe this cause of holi churchē: tofore the Pope
to ende.

This holi man out of this court: wel myldēliche gan
gon,

That King and alle that with him were: wraththede
him anon,

With also grete noyse, as al the toun: biset were with
here fon;

This holi man him wendě forth: as stille as eni ston.

Hi ne miȝte makie morē cri: theȝ al the toun were
afure,

Than hi dude upe this holi man: that reuthe hit was to
hure. 1050

Nou God beo this holi manēs help: for he hadde ther
lutē rewe;

For in al his lyf he hadde: godē dawēs fewe.

Forth him wendē Seint Thomas: as him nothing ne
roȝte:

For more me sehende Iēsu Crist: tho me him to dethē
broȝte.

He weith upe his palefrai: and to his inne wende so:
Unethe he miȝtē mid his hond: this threō thingēs do,
Bleseī that fole, and bere his eroīee: and his bridel
wisse.

The simple fole ōrn him aboute: with joye ynou and
blisse.

For hi wende wel he hadde ibeo: at court faste ynome:
Hi herede moeche Iēsu Crist: that he miȝte among hem
come. 1060

To his in, to Seint Andreuēs: he suede him faste ynouȝ;
Alle the pore men with him: to the mete he drouȝ;
And seidē, “Cometh forth mid me: for minē freond ȝe
beoth:

“Inabbe non other freond than ȝou: of allē men ȝe
seoth.”

He let hem fedē eehone wel: ful his hous neȝ,
And him silve the gladdere was: that he ham isēȝ.
As Seint Thomas sat atte mete: theȝ he no wille
nadde,

This word that ourē Louerd het: his redere bifore him
radde:—

“ If me pursueth 3ou in o toun: into another 3e fleo.”
This holi man tho3te bi him: this word mi3te wel beo:
And that hit was Godēs wille: into another toun
to gon, 1071

Anon as the godspel saith: to fleō alle his fon.
The hardiere he was tho: of londē forto wende,
Whan he mi3t ascapie wel: that God wolde the tymē
sende.

Tho hit was toward eve: tui serjantz ther come fram
the Kinge,

And sorē wepinge warnede him that me wolde: to
strongē dethe him bringe.

For the Kinges men hadde iswore: thurf heste of the
Kinge,

Whar so hi mi3tē fyndē him: to strongē dethe him
bringe.

Seint Thomas tho3te another: he let makie his bed
ani3t,

In the he3ē churche: bituene tui wevedes ri3t. 1080

Tho other men were alle aslepe: and noman him
nas ne3.

He ros him up and bihuld: on than ymāge anhe3.

He ful adoun before the weved: and on oure Louerd
gan crie;

And seidē furst the set samēs: and siththe the letanye.

And wepinge ech halewe bad: his help forto beo,

And at ech halwe up aros: and sat siththe adoun
akneo.

Nou Crist in hevene beo his help: for neode he hadde
therto ynouȝ!

For him was to eominge sorwe ynouȝ: as ȝe schulle
ihure with wouȝ.

Tho he hadde ido his priere: stillehe he gan gon,
Alute bifore the eockes erowe: out of the echurche anon;
And wende him out of Engēlonde: that noman with
him nas, 1091

Bote o frere of Sympringham: that wel privei with
him was.

This gode man fleȝ al Engēlond: for holi echurchē riȝte.
For al his wo ne ȝaf he noȝt: if he lit amendē myȝte.
The niȝt that fram Norhamptone: Seint Thomas thane
wei nom,

To on of his elerkes: in avisioun ther com

A eler voiz, that seide: of the sauter this: *—

“As hit were a sparewe: oure soule ibroȝt is

“Out of the hunteres bonde: and the bond is undo,

“And al defouled, and we: beoth delyvred so.” 1100

Of whām was this avisioun: bote of Seint Thomas,
That out of the bendes of his fon: tho delyvred was?
That word eom of Seint Thomas: to the Kingē sone:
The heȝē men nome therof red: what hem were to
done.

The King and al his Baronie: and his Bischops
celon,

* “Anima nostra sicut passer crepta est de laqueo venantium.
Laquens contritus est et nos liberati sumus.”—(*Psalm cxxiv.*)
This Latin quotation is in the margin of the Harleian MS.

That auȝtē with Seint Thomas beo: and were mest
his fon,

To his consail everechone: assentede attan ende,
That the King scholde of his heȝiste men: to the
court of Romē sende,

Aȝen him whan he thider com: and the Pope do
understonde,

That he is fals and forswore: and desturbour of the
londe 1110

And to do this gretē neode: the wiseste men forth nome,
And that the King were al in pees: forte he aȝē come.
The Archebischop of Everwyk: and the Bischop of
Excestre,

To Romē wende for thissē neode: and the Bischop of
Cicestre.

The Bischop ek of Londone: and of Wircestre also,
And gretē Eorlēs and Barouns: and clerkēs therto,
To bere witnisse of this falshede: whan hi to courtē
come.

Noble ȝiftēs and gewels: mid hem also hi nome:
For therwith me mai ofte at court: the riȝtē bringe to
wouȝ. 1119

Nou Crist helpe this porē man: for he was pore ynouȝ!
None ȝiftēs he nadde to ȝyve: to holdē up his riȝte:
Fram Norhamptonē bar he ȝeode: for holi churchē to
fiȝte.

Fram Seint Andreues in Norhamptone: this holi man
forth wende,

With a frere of Simpringham: as oure Louerd the
gracē sende.

Vyf and tuenti mile he wende: to the toun of Gra[nt]-
ham,

Er he stintē meni stede: with the frere of Simpringham.
Al northward he drouȝ him forth: and framward the
see,

That the Kinges men ne founde him noȝt: to nymē ne
to sle.

Siththe he wendē fram Gra[nt]ham: fyve and tuenti
myle also, 1129

To the cité of Lineolne: er he wolde him to restē do.
The morwe upe Seint Lukēs dai: Tuēsdai hit was tho,
He departede fram the Kingēs court: in suchē sorwe
and wo.

Thanē Wendesdai aniȝt: out of the toun he nom;
Sone amorwe thane Thursdai: to Lineolne he eom.

At a walkeres hous: his in he nom there;

Alle gate he nom his wei: bi niȝte that he awaited nere.
In watere he dude him at Lineolne: er God thane dai
sende;

And thanē Fridai fourti myle: al bi water he wende,
To an hermitage of Simpringham: that amidde the
watere is:

Ther he levede hardiliche: threō dayes, iwis. 1140

To Seint Botolf siththe he wende: that thannēs was
ten myle;

And ther he dude him eft in watere: and com, in a
lute while,

To the hous of Haverolt: that of Simpringham ek is.
The frere him ladde bi thulkē hous: the sikerer to beo,
iwis.

Therhanne he wende to Eystrie: his owe manèr mid
riȝte,

The Archebischop of Canterbury: if he were of miȝte;
That was neȝ the see ynouȝ: he abod wel there;
Lokede forto passi: whan best tymē were.

Soveniȝt he bilevede ther: forto Allē Soulen day,
In chambre riȝt bi the church: dai and niȝt he lay;
That noman ne scholde him underȝete: ne war of him
beo. 1151

Thurf the church wal he makede an hol: the sacringe
forto seo;

And forto hurē ther his masse: that hi, that to churchē
come,

Nuste noȝt that he was so neȝ: ne toke therof no gome.
Such an anker he was bicomē: Louerd, that him
was wo,

Archebischop of Canterbury: that ne therste among
none men go!

An Alle Soulen dai, thane Tuēsdai: er God thane
dai sende,

He bitok God al holi church: and into the see wende.

Hi rewe forth al thanē dai: forte aȝen theveninge,

A myle hi aryvede: fram the havene of Graveninge.

Oyc me clipeth the stede: as he com to londe, 1161

In the lond of Flandres: as ich understonde.

Forth he moste, this holi man: hors nadde he non;

For al his bischopriche: afote he mostē gon.

And that noman him ne knewe: thabit of frere he
nom,

And as a frere forth he ȝcode: tho he to Flandres com.

Blak was his eope above: his eurtel whit blanket;
 Upe his rug his eope he bar: forto go the bet.
 The reyn was gret and swithě strong: the wei was
 deope ynouȝ:

So weri was this holi man: that unethe his lymes he
 drouȝ. 1170

So weri he was of the wei: and of the see bifore,
 That he sat adoun and ne miȝte no fur: bote he were
 ibore.

Tho ȝeodě forth on of his men: and lurede him a
 mure,

For an Engliseh peni, with an halter: this holi man
 to bere.

This holi man his elothēs nom: and upe this mure
 hem easte,

And werth upe above his elothēs: and rod forth wel
 faste.

A! weilawai! sueh a man: moche is Godēs miȝte!

So feblische wendě over lond: for uvele was hit his
 riȝte.

Uvele bieom him to gon afote: other upe a suche best
 to ride. 1179

Holi churchē he aboutě dure: that me tiȝth on wide.

With this haltere upe this mure: forth rod this holi man,

As a frere, and let him elipen: frerě Cristian.

For he noldě liē noȝt: Cristeně he was;

And he was adrad to beon iknowe: if me elipede him
 Thomas.

At a god manēs hous: his in a niȝt he nom,

He sat attē bordēs ende: as him noȝt wel bicom;

And his men sete alle withinne: as he the loweste were:
The oste nom wel gode ȝeme: hou hi hem alle bere.

He nom ȝeme of this holi man: attē bordēs ende,
Hou mylde he was attē borde: and curteys and hende.
Hou curteisliche he delde his mete: to hem that tofore
him stode, 1191

And hou lute him silf he at: mid wel simple mode.
His lymēs also he bihuld: hou gent hi were and freo;
Honden faire, with longē fyngres: fairere ne miȝte
none beo.

His facē long and brod also: his frount large ynouȝ;
And bifore alle thothere evere to him: his hurte mest
drouȝ.

Of tharchebischop of Canterbury: he gan him under-
stonde,

That hit was couth into al that lond: that he was
iwend of londe.

His hurte him ȝaf that hit was he: in gret studie he
was ibroȝt;

He rounede in his wyvēs ere: and tolde hire al his
thoȝt. 1200

His wyf, after thulkē tyme: that sothe also thoȝte,
Heo servede this holi man: and of deyntēs him broȝte.
Applen, peres, and notēs ek: heo fondede in eche
manère,

Among alle this other men: to gladie this seli frere.
Heo bilevede to servi othere: and upe him was al hire
thoȝt;

Seint Thomas hit underȝet: and ne paidē him with
noȝt.

So that he bihuld aboute: anon after sopèr.

Wel myldēliche he bad his hoste: forto com him ner,
And to sitte bi him adoun: and solāei him astounde.

“Sire, merci!” quath this other: “ieh wole sittē upe the
grounde.” 1210

He sat adoun at his fet: Seint Thomas him bad arise:
“Certēs, sire,” quath this other: yneschal in nonē
wise.

“Nolde God that ieh bi thē sete: Louerd! ihered
thu beo,

“That thu mostest in myne housē come: and ieh thane
dai iseo.”

“Lute deynté,” quath Seint Thomas: “of such a porē
man,

“A seli frere as ieh am: ihotē Cristian.”

“Sire, thin ore,” quath this other: “wel ieh under-
stonde,

“Archebischof thu ert of Canterbure: iwend out of
Engēlonde.”

“Whi saistou so?” quath this other: “thu hast selde
iseȝe,

“Tharehebischof of Canterbury: in suehe manere
ride bi weye.” 1220

“Sire,” quath this other, “thu hit ert: as me saith
mi thoȝt,

“Ich bidde thē for the love of God: ne forsak hit aȝē
me noȝt.”

Seint Thomas him bithoȝte: that other he moste lie,
Other beo iknowe that he hit was: so thother on him
gan crie.

Attē laste he was iknowe: ae amorwe he nom
His hoste, and bad that he ne wreide him noȝt: er he
afur wei com.

He wende him forth wel er dai: in wel foulē weye;
Tuelf myle he ȝeode grete ynouȝ: to a grei abbeye,
That me elipeth Clermareys: of greye monekes, iwis,
That biside the castel: of Seint Omer is. 1230

To thabbey of Seint Bertin: fram thannē he wende,
And ther he levede til oure Louerd: other tithinge
him sende.

The Bischops of Engēlonde: and the Barouns also,
Toward the court of Romē wende: her erande for to do.
To the King of France hi wende: and lettres with
hem bere,

Fram the King of Engēlonde: that thus an Englisch
were:—

“To his louerd, thurf Godēs grace: Sire Lowes the
King,

“Henri King of Engēlonde: sent love and greting.

“Thomas that Archēbischop was: of Canterbure her-
bifore,

“Out of mi lond is awend: as traytour and forswore.

“Therefore, as myn urlich louerd: ich bidde thé, bi mi
sonde, 1241

“That thu ne suffri noȝt that he beo: receited in thi
londe.”

Tho this King this bone ihurde: awhile in thoȝte he
stod;

“Certēs,” he hem seide, “me thinȝth: this bonē nis
noȝt god.

“So strong theof nis non in Engēlond: if he into
France come,

“That he ne miȝtē levē ther: as me siȝth ilome.

“Nere he iproved so strong theof: other hadde that
lond forswore,

“Ic ne miȝte do hit for no thing: theȝ he him haddē
ther misbore.

“And whatlokere scholde such an heȝ man: ne come
he noȝt so sone,

“And nother ich ne he habbeth: with oure bishops to
done. 1250

“For myne bishops with holi churche: ich lete here
willē do,

“And fairere were the King, me thiȝth: lete him
iworthē so,

“Than entremitti of holi churche: here riȝtēs fortospille,

“And loki the pees of the lond: me thiȝth he doth
his wille.”

Ne miȝte this heȝē men: non other word afonge;
So that hi wendē forth here wei: tho hi hadde abidē
longe.

Maister Herbad of Bozam: and othere siththē wende,
To the King of France: as Seint Thomas hem sende;
And tolde the King of al the wo: that Seint Thomas
hadde with wouȝ.

The King tho he hurdē this: wep and makede deol
ynouȝ; 1260

And tolde al hou the Kingēs men: were at him bifore,
And which answeere he hem ȝaf: here wei hi hadde
forlore.

This godě man with joye ynouȝ: here levě of him nome,
And fram him myldēlichě wende: to the court of
Rome.

For ther nere hi noȝt wolcome: for the schame bifore,
And the desclandre of Seint Thomas: that he was fals
and forswore.

Ac nathēlēs grace hi hadde: that hi to the Pop come
miȝte.

Him silve hi tolde in priveité: al Seint Thomas wo with
unriȝte;

Of the statutz of Clarendone: hou hi forth furst come;
Hou he was ibroȝt to Noramptone: tofore the King to
done; 1270

Hou he wende out of Engēlonde: in which miseise
and wo;

And hou he changede his name: the sikerer forto go.
The Pope bigan to sikē sore: mid wel dreori thoȝt,
The terēs urne out of his eȝen: he ne miȝte hem wernē
noȝt.

He thonkede God that such prelat: under him miȝtē
beo,

So stedēfast to holi churchē: and that he miȝte thane
dai iseo.

Amorwe come the Bischops: and the Barouns also,
To procuri him al the wele: that hi miȝtē do.

Tofore the Pope as he sat: myldēliche hi come,
And bifore the Cardinals: attē curt of Rome.

The Bischop of Londone: that evere lither was,
Bigan furst to telle his tale: aȝē Seint Thomas. 1280
He stod up tofore al the court: "Beau pere," he sede,

“To thé we come to mene ous: of wrecchede that we
doth lede,

“Ourē riȝtēs up to holde: alle that godē beoth,

“And folēs bringē of folie: whan we eni iseoth.

“A distance ther is ispronge: liȝtliche in Engēlonde,

“That desturbeth al that lond: with unriȝt, ich under-
stonde.

“Tharchebischop of Canterbure: al aȝen oure wille,

“A folie bigan in Engēlonde: al holi churchē to spille:

“To bynyme the Kingēs franchise: and his riȝtes also;

“Ac he ne miȝte ous makē for nothiȝ: consenti therto.

“Therfore for wraththē siththe: for we nolde his
willē do, 1291

“Upe ous he caste his owē gult: and upe the King
also;

“And attē lastē, as hit were: the lond forto ablende,

“That no man him strenȝthē dude: of lond he gan
wende.

“For men that that sothē nuste: scholdē understonde,

“That the King him dude unriȝt: and drof him out
of londe.”

Tho he hadde his tale itold: and ymaked al his wise,

He sat adoun and the Bischop: of Cicestre gan arise.

“Beau pere,” he seidē to the Pope: “me thiȝth hit
falth to thé,

“To disturbi thing that falleth: to harm of commu-
neauté; 1300

“That o man ne beo isuffred noȝt: go forth with his
wille,

“ To bringĕ al the lond to sehindiſse: and holi churche
to spille.

“ That hathoure Archebischop i wroȝt: that is isene, i wis,
“ Whan ech man of the lond: faste aȝen him is.”

The Archebischop of Everwyk: tho he his tyme iseȝ,
Aros up and gan to telle: his talĕ, al anheȝ.

“ Sire,” he seide, “ no man ne knoweth: so wel as
ich do,

“ Tharchebischop of Canturbure: and tharchebischop-
riche also.

“ The Archebischop is wilful: and whan he is alles
i broȝt

“ In a wil that is lute worth: he nele bileve hit noȝt.

“ For man ne schal for nothing: bringe him out of his
thoȝt: 1311

“ In suchĕ fol wille is he nou: that we habbeth deore
aboȝt.

“ Liȝtliche therinne he com: and he nele bileve
nevere mo,

“ Bote ȝe pulte ȝoure hond therto: to bringe ous out
of wo.”

“ Sire, sire,” quath the Bischop: of Exceestre tho,

“ This eas ȝe mote amendi: hou so hit evere go.

“ If ȝe ne loeveth noȝt that sothe: as me doth ȝou to
understonde,

“ Send with ous, fot with fot: a legat into Engĕlonde,

“ To enqueri that sothĕ ther: and let him thereafter
wirche.

“ For certĕs, bote ȝe other thenche: ȝe schendeth holi
churche.” 1320

Tho aros up the Eorl of Arondel : man of gret
digneté,

“Sire,” he seide, “for Godës love: astounde herkne
to me.

“We lewede men that herě beoth: ne cunně Latyn
non,

“Ne nothing nabbeth understonde: that ȝe habbeth
itold echon.

“Ae in langágč that we cunne: such men as we beoth,

“ (Heȝe Barouns and noble Knyȝtes: that ȝe bifor ȝou
iseoth,)

“Telle ich wole bifore ȝou alle: whi we beoth hider
iwend,

“Thurf mi louerd the Kinges heste: that ous hath
isend.

“Noȝt that we wraththi eni man: other eni man sigge
amis,

“And nameliche ourě alre hevede: that oure chiěf is,

“To wham al the wordle aboueth: (God holdč him his
miȝte,) 1331

“That auȝte ech man ȝurně bidde: to holde ech man
to riȝte.

“Ae suchě knyȝtës as we beoth: hider we beoth iwend;

“Oure louerd the King of Engělonde: hider ous hav-
eth isend,

“To schewě furst the reverence: and the grete love
also,

“That he hath evere to ȝou ibore: and evere thenȝth
to do;

“ And that ȝe sende him word bi ous: as ȝe seoth ous stonde,

“ Bischopes, Eorlēs, and Barouns: the heȝiste of his londe.

“ If eni heȝere hadde ibeo: hider he hadde iwend,

“ As to so heȝ curt as this is: hider ous he hath isend, 1340

“ To schewi furst in his name: as wide as the wordle is,

“ So true princē nis to Rome: ne that so moche ȝou loveth, iwis;

“ Ne so moche honureth holi churchē: and evere hath ido.

“ Tharchebischop of Canterbure: is noble man also.

“ That if o manere of him: as ich understonde,

“ Ther nerē lond of Cristendom: aȝen Engēlonde,

“ Ne holi churchē so wel: ischuld from echē wouȝ,

“ Under swithē noble prince: and prelat god ynouȝ.

“ Ac the Archebischop Thomas: hath a lutē wille,

“ To apeiri moche his godnisse: and that lond thenȝ[th] aspile. 1350

“ His wille is such, that whan he is: icomē in fol thoȝt,

“ He nele thurf consail ne thurf red: therof bco ibroȝt.

“ In suchē folie he is icomē nouthe: (oure Louerd his thoȝt wende!)

“ Bote me mowe him therof bringe: that lond he wole aschende.

“ Therefore mi louerd the King ȝou bit: that ȝe with ous sende,

“ A legat to Engēlonde: to enquere therof than ende.

“Other eertēs he is upe the poynte: al that lond to
spille,

“Bote ȝe chasti him thurf lawe: and bynyme his folē
wille.”

Off alle the clerkēs that ther sete: non of hem ther
nas,

That ne preisede moehe this heȝē man: for he so rena-
ble was. 1360

“Lordlings,” quath the Pope: “ȝe iseoth wel ynouȝ,

“That ȝe to tharchebischop telleth: beo hit riȝt other
wouȝ.

“Ae we ne mowe no dom ȝyve: both he himsilf her
were,

“Ne juggi no man bihyndē him: for no riȝt hit nere.”

“Sire,” quath th[e] Eorl of Arondel: “ȝe mote bet
understonde:

“A certeyn dai ous is iset: to come to Engēlonde;

“And thane dai nethore we noȝt breke: for oure
louerd the Kinge;

“Therefore ȝe mote ous gracē do: somdel of thissē
thinge.

“We biddeth ȝou, if hit is ȝoure wille: a legat with
ous sende,

“And tharchēbischop hote also: to Engēlondē wende

“And as the legat ther enquereth: therafter he mai
do.” 1371

“Certēs, beau frere,” quath the Pope: “ynele noȝt
take on so.

“Inot whan tharchēbischop cometh: ne what he wole
forth drawe;

“And to deme a man bihynden him: thu wost hit nere
no lawe.”

“Certēs, sire,” quath this other: “we nethore abidē
noȝt.”

“Deperdeus,” quath the Pope: “doth as ȝe habbeth
ithoȝt.”

This othere werē wroth ynou: wel faire here leve
hi nome,

And wende hem forth in gretē wraththe: and to En-
gēlondē come.

Seint Thomas was tho in Flandres: in huding, as
hit were,

In the hous of Seint Bertin: for he him abussede
there. 1380

Attēlaste he aros bi nyȝte: and out of Flandres wende,
Al priveilichē into France: as God the gracē sende.

The King of Francē that tho was: Lowis, god and
hende,

Hurde telle of this gode man: he let after him sende.

Tho [t]his holi man to him eom: gret joye he gan make;

He het him upon his lond: ynouȝ of his take,

To spene, to him and allē his: whar so he evere come.

Nolde Seint Thomas abidē noȝt: er he com to Rome.

The King him tok spense ynouȝ: to him and allē his,

And sendē with him god condut: to bringe him ther,
iwis. 1390

Tho this gode man to Romē com: he was faire
underfonge;

And somdel the Popē was annyed: that he abod so
longe.

Me acusede him of the trespàs: that the Bischops
toldē there,

And bad him answeŕe for his stat: and aleggi for him
hou hit were.

Seint Thomas woldē up arise: me bad him sitte
adoun;

Biside the Pope he sat: and seidē his reisoun.

“Sire,” he seide, “ich am iset: theȝ ich unworthi beo,
“To wardi the churchē of Canterbury: as ȝe mowe
iseo.

“And theȝ ich ne beo noȝt worthi: such fol nam
ynoȝt,

“That the King scholde thurf me: in wraththē beon
ibroȝt. 1400

“For if ich wolde his willē do: and paye him of alle
thinge,

“Inc ne scholde for noȝt: in such contek him bringe;

“He me wolde lovie ynouȝ: and al his lond, iwis,

“Scholde at mi willē beo: and alle thing that is his.

“Ae mi professioun ich habbe: to Jesu Crist ido;

“And the biheste that ich habbe ymaked: ne suffreth
me noȝt so.

“And if ich wolde bileve: ynaddē nonē neode,

“To no man to go ous bituene: myn erande forto
beode.

“Ac the churchē of Canturbure: was iwoned to
schynē wide,

“And beo as the sonne among alle othere: of the west
side. 1410

“The sonne that was so briȝt: deork heo is bicomē;

“Blodē clouden and stronge ynou: hire liȝt hire hab-
beth binome.

“Overeast heo is with the clouden: that liȝt ne ȝifth
heo non;

“Whar thurf the churchen of Engēlonde: idurked
beoþ echon.

“For a cloude hire had overeast: that heo ne mai noȝt
liȝte:

“The King that scholde hire governy: bynymeth al
hire riȝte.

“Ich that scholde hire wardeyn beo: therāȝen ich
mot fiȝte,

“And stonde aȝē and withsigge hire wrong: bi al mynē
miȝte.

“For theȝ ich hadde a thousand lyves: (as ynabbe bote
on,)

“Rathere than ich woldē tholie: ȝyve ich hem wolde
echon. 1420

“The eustumes aȝē holi churchē: that the King hath
forth ibroȝt,

“Her ȝe mowe hem nou ihure: if hi beoþ to granti
oȝt.”

He gan hem rede the lithere lawes: as he hem hadde
iwrite;

He wep that the teres urne adoun: that deole hit was
to wite.

Tho the Pope and his Cardinals: that seȝe him wepe
so sore,

And ihurde ek this lithere lawes: hi ne miȝte forbere
nomore;

And wope also pitousliche: and herede God also,
 That hi miȝte finde such a prelat: over holi churchē ido,
 That huld hire so wel to riȝte: and ne suffredē ne
 wouȝ;

And thonkede God of such a man: and honurede him
 ynouȝ. 1430

The Pope het his clerkēs alle: thurf al Cristendom,
 Withsiggē suchē lithere lawes: whar so eni of hem
 com;

And that hi nere isuffred nowhar: hou so hi come to
 ende,

And that hi deide rathere therfore; than holi churchē
 lete schende.

Tho spac him eft Seint Thomas: wepingē wel sore,
 “Inabbē noȝt so moche wo: that me nere worthē more.
 “For thurf strenȝthe of urthlich man: in such poēr
 am ich ido,

“Ac ich douti aȝen Godēs wille: that ich unworthi beo
 therto.

“Therfore God, for riȝtē wreeche: uel ending me doth
 sende;

“Ac ich douti for mi wreechē gult: that wors schal
 beo the ende, 1440

“For mi synne and mi unmiȝte: that ynemai hire
 wardi noȝt.

“Therfore, that holi churchē: ne beo to grounde ibroȝt,

“Ieh ȝyve ȝou up mi bischopriche: another ȝe mote
 ther do,

“That hit mowe wardi bet: for unworthi ich am
 therto.”

His ring he nom and tok the Pope: and ȝuld up the
bischopriehe.

The Pope wel deolfulliehe: and wel myldēliehe gan
siche.

Therof conseilled al the court: what the beste red were,
To lete him leve therchebischopriche: other to do
another there.

“Me thingth,” quath a Cardinal: “in such cas as this
man is,

“Betere hit were to do another: in his stede, iwis,¹⁴⁵⁰

“Forto payē bet the King: and such eas miȝte bifalle,

“That the King wolde bileve and aswagi: the lithere
lawēs alle.

“For betere hit were, in faire manère: ho so hit miȝte,
to endē bringe,

“Than eontek holde in suehē lond: and nameliche a é
the Kinge.

“And me miȝte purveye the godē man: as god as
that is.

“Inot what conseil ȝe wolleth rede: ich wole redē this.”

Tho seide another Cardinal: “yne rede noȝt so, iwis;

“For that wolde ȝyvē men ensample: aldai to do
amis.

“For whan a king with a bisehop: were wroth of eni
thinge,

“Anon to bringē him adoun: uvele lawēs woldē bringe;

“And so were holi ehurchē theu: that levedi scholde
beo.

1461

“Therefore this consail (me thingth) is feble: a bett[e]re
me mai iseo.”

The Pop nom tho Seint Thomas: and tok him aȝé
the ring,

To beo Arehēbischop forth: stable thurf alle thing;
Stedēfast to holdē up: holi ehurehē riȝte,

And he him wolde aȝen eeh man: helpē bi his miȝte;

And he ne seholdē noȝt the ȝut: to Engēlondē wende,

Ae abidē betere grace; if God woldē sende.

To thabbei of Pontenay: to sojourni there,

He sente this holi man: forte hit betere were. 1170

With lutel fole, and lutel ese: ther he gan to levē;

For he nadde silver non to spene: bote as hi him

ȝeve.

His men he brouȝtē in servise: here mete to wynnē
there,

Hiim silve he was alonē neȝ: heȝ man theȝ he were.

Lyf he werede hard ynouȝ: he werede hardē here,

Sehurte and brech hard ynouȝ: harderē non nere.

The straples were istreynd harde ynouȝ: with knottēs
also,

The sehurte tilde anon to his thies: the brech to his to.

The knotten wodē in his flesehe: aboute in eehē side:

Wel unesē was his brech: aboutē for to ride. 1180

Hardē miȝte he ligge adoun: and hardē sitte also.

Louerd! deore abouȝte he hevene: wel auȝte he come
therto!

The Bischops of Engēlonde: that aȝen him were
at Rome,

And Eorles and othere ek: tho hi to Engelond come,

Hi tolde the King al the cās: hou hi hadde isped.

So sori and wroth the King was: that he was neȝ āwed.

“Allas,” he seide, “thulke traitoure: that ieh habbe
forth ibroȝt!

“That he me sehal such sehamē do: ynemai hit tholie
noȝt.

“Whan he fliȝth out of londe: that ynemai to him
eome,

“Ich wole me awrekē of his kyn: hi sehulle abuggē
some.” 1490

He let siche out al elene his freond: and his kyn echon,
And drof hem out of Engēlond: that hi ne bilevede
noȝt on;

Sik ne feble, ȝung ne old: ne wymmen mid chylde,
Ne chyldrene that sokinge were: moehe he was un-
mylde.

In armes the moder bar the child: in herē wombē
some:

Ther hadde the King (me thingth): a feble wreehe
ynome.

Ihauled hi were, in grete meseise: out of the lond,
allas!

Eeh god man hadde reuthe of hem: that ihurdē of
that eas.

Among hem hi seide stillēliche: that he lither King
was.

More schrewede the King bithoȝte: ȝut of Seint
Thomas. 1500

The men that he drof of londe: were hem leof other
loth,

He make hem swerie upon a boc: ech after other, an
oth;

That hi ne scholde in nonē stede: levē, nonē stounde,
 Er hi come to Scint Tbomas: ther as hi him founde,
 And toldē him hou hi were: out of londe ibroȝt,
 To bringe him more in sorwe: if hi miȝte turne his
 thoȝt.

ȝut he brouȝte a lither dedē more: upē Seint Thomas;
 He let hote, thurf al the lond: as wide as his poēr was,
 That no man ne scholdē for him bidde: in churche ne
 ellēswhare;

As me for tharchēbisehop doth: and ido hath ȝare.¹⁵¹⁰
 Louerd! moehe was the schamē tho: that holi church
 bitidde,

Whan heo ne mostē for hire heved: among other men
 bidde!

That fole of Seint Thomas freond: thieke aboute
 him drouȝ,

Aldai that were iflemmid for him: in meseise and sorwe
 ynouȝ;

And wope and cridē dulfulliehe: and tolde him al that
 eas,

Hou hi werē fram him dryve: and which here sorwe
 was.

Seint Thomas bihuld hem dulfulliche: and gan to.sikē
 sore;

Nathelès he makede hem fair semblant: to comforti
 hem the more;

And sende this word to gladi hem: that men unde[r]-
 stondeth longe,

¹⁵¹⁹

“Echē lond,” he seide: “is contray to the stronge.

“As ho saith, theȝ ȝe beo: in strange contray ibroȝt,

“If ȝe beoth strong in Godës lawe: hit ne schal ȝou
grevi noȝt.”

Alle the heȝe men of the lond: that ihurde that eas,
Aeursedē the King, and seide: that he lither was.

This seli men aboute him nome: for love of Scint
Thomas,

And fonde hem sustenanee ynouȝ: in meseise non ther
nas.

Tho the titthinge to the King: of Engēlondē com,
That this men were underfonge: gret deol to him he
nom.

“Certēs,” he seide, “whan ynemai: his hurtē so buye,
“In more meseise ich wole him bringe: that his lyf
him schal anuye.” 1530

Greye monēkēs of Cisteaus: fram ȝere to ȝere,
A chapitle makede general: of Abbotes that ther were;
For monēkēs of eeh grei abbei: to this chapitle come,
Withinne a termē, as ȝut doth: thurfout al Cristendome.
Tho the elchapitle plener was: the Kyng thider sende,
To thabbotes plenerliche: that to the chapitle wende;
And sende him word that him thoȝte: wonder gret
ynouȝ,

That hi wolde him so moche misdo: uncundēliche and
wouȝ,

To susteyne his withere wyne: among hem, and his fo,
In the hous of Ponteney: that brouȝte him in such wo;
And bote hi him levede: and susteynede him nomore,
Alle the greye hous of Engēlonde: ofthenchē scholdē
sore: 1542

For if hi susteynede his fo: no wonder hit nere,

Theȝ he wreke him of thulkē hous: that in his lond
were.

Tho this lettres to Sisteaus: among this Abbotes come,
Of the thretinge hi doutede sore: and gret consail
nome;

So that hi bedē Seint Thomas: his bestē forto do;
For hi ne therste, aȝē the Kingēs wille: nomorē holde
him so.

Tho Seint Thomas this ihurde: he gan to sikē sore:
He bad Jesus him helpē tho: and cride him milce
and ore. 1550

“Lordlings,” he seide, “that me habbeth: susteyned
meni o dai,

“In mi grete neode, Jesu Crist: hit ȝuldē; ynemai.

“The King that threteth ȝou so faste: if ȝe me hold-
eth longe,

“If Crist wole, ȝe ne schulle for me: nevere harm
afonge.

“Whar so ich evere an urthē beo: fram ȝou I wolē
wende,

“That ȝe ne beo for me apeired: oure Louerd his
grace me sende!

“For ich mai ȝut mi metē bidde: ynam noȝt to god
therto:

“God that fedeth the wyldē best: me mai fede also.

“Ac hou hit evere bi me bifalle: God, if hit is thi
wille,

“Hold up the riȝt of holi churchē: that heo fulliche
ne spille!” 1560

As this holi man in thoȝtē stod: whoder he miȝtē
wende,

The King of France, that was so god: sone gan his
word sende,

That he bilevede in al his lond: whar so his hurte best
drouȝ,

Cheose him silvē, and he wolde: him sendē spounse
ynouȝ.

Ther hit soth whan a man: in mest sorwe is and
teone,

Thanne is oure Louerdes help wel neȝ: as hit tho isene.
This holi man hiȝ levē nom: wel myldēliche and
softe,

And sorē wepinge wendē forth: and ȝoxede and siȝtē
ofte.

The Abbot of Pontenay: somdel forth him brouȝte;

He axede of him whi he were: in so deolful thoȝte.

“Ich wolē sigge,” quath Seint Thomas: “whi ich
carie so, 1571

“That thu ne tellē non fore: er myn endedai beo ido.

“Ich am siker that ich schal: [deye] in martirdom:

“For to niȝt in mi sleping: a wonder mcting me com.

“In the churchē of Canterbure: me thoȝte ich stod,
iwis,

“And strivede for holi churchē: aȝen the King and his.

“Tho come ther four kniȝtes: and smyte me upe the
croune,

“Ech after other, that mi brayn: schadde on the
grounde adoune.

“For me ich thonki Jesu Crist: that ich schal deye so;

“Ae for mi meyně ich sikě sore: that ynot what ich
sehal do.” 1580

This holi man him wendě forth: with care and deol
bi weye,

Forto he eom to Seneouns: tuelf myle fram Ponteneye.
Ther he levede in sojourn: as longě as he wolde:

The King him fond to spene ynouȝ: of silver and of
golde.

This holi man levede ther: in pays and rest ynouȝ;
Ae evere he carede for holi ehurche: that me dude so
wouȝ,

And sende to the King of Engělund: that he lete beo
stille,

That he ne werrede noȝt holi ehurehe: if hit were his
wille.

Siththe the King of Engělund: as his wille him nom,
Passede the see, as God hit wolde: and into Francě eom.
The King of Francě was aboute: (if God wold the
gracě sende,) 1591

To aeordi him and Seint Thomas: if he hit miȝte
bringe to ende;

So that hi were togadere ibroȝt: to a dai that hi sette.
Seint Thomas com tofore the King: and as his louerd
him grette;

And to his fet ful adoun: and wep and eridě sore,
“Have reuthe,” he seide, “of holi churche: and ne
werrě hire nomore,

“And ieh wole do al thi wille: as ich seide er, bi mi
miȝte,

“Saf mi Louerdes honúr: and holi ehurchě riȝte.”

The King madeke him wroth ynouȝ for that worth; as
he hadde ofte ibeo,

“Nou ȝe mowe,” he seide, “echone: his falshede iseo.

“For ynescholde, upe this word, do: nothing aȝen his
wille, 1601

“That he ne scholde sigge that ich wolde: holi churchē
aspille;

“And that ich were aȝen Godes wille: and in suche
man re he miȝte,

“The lond desturbi, and bynyme: mi franchise and
mi riȝte.

“Gode bischops ther habbeth ibeo: bifore, ȝe wite,
iwis:

“That ȝe seo mi trunisse: and that the wrong is al his.

“As the wyseste and the beste bischops: that bifore
him were,

“Aȝen the mestē fol King: biferē me hem bere, .

“Do he so aȝē me: and ich paye me wel ynouȝ;

“And if he is aȝē this forme: me thinȝth he haveȝ wouȝ.

“Other him thinȝth, of bischops: so wys as he non nas;

“Other he halth me the mestē wrecche: that evere
bifore this was.” 1612

Tho seide the King of France: and all that hurde this,

“Certēs thu beodest him love ynou: the wrong is al
his.”

Seint Thomas stod longe in thoȝte: and gan to sikē .
sore,

“Theȝ ich have ibeo in anuy: ȝut me is to comē more.

“If the archēbischops bifore me: haddo ido here miȝte,

“Hit nadde ibeo no need nou: to contecki ne to fiȝte.

“For er this, hi were stable ynouȝ: bi godě maněs
siȝte,

“And custumes ne beoth to holdě noȝt: if hi beoth
aȝé riȝte. 1620

“And for the bisehopes were to nesehe: bifore me, as
ich hit fynde,

“Here folie ich mot nou abigge: other hit worth bi-
hynde.

“Ieh wot wel ther habbeth ibeo bifore: eustumes in
Engělonde,

“Ac aȝen riȝte hi beoth: as ich understonde.

“Theȝ hi longe isuffred beo: and to eustoměs idrawe,

“Ther ne mai no man to sothě sigge; that hit beo riȝt
ne lawe.

“For oure Louerd loveth soth and riȝtnisse: and uvele
custumes riȝt noȝt, iwis;

“And that he scheweth bi a word: that in the god-
spel is:

“For oure Louerd him silf him eveneth: to sothnissě
there,

“Ac he ne eveneth him nowhar to eustoměs: for aȝé
riȝt hit were. 1630

“Therefore me thinȝth that hit is riȝt: that we to soth-
nisse drawe,

“And uvele eustoměs desturbi: that beoth aȝé lawe.

“Therefore ynele none eustoměs: suffri, bi mi miȝte,

“That aȝen sothnissise beoth: and holi churchě riȝte.

“Her me mai isco that none uvele lawes: no god man
ne schal afonge,

“Ac desturbi bi al his miȝte: theȝ hi beo holdě longe.

“For he that susteneth uvele lawes: as wel he haveth
the sinne,

“Bote if he hem alegge, if he mai: as he that hem
doth byg[i]nne.”

Tho the King of France ihurdě this: and othere that
ther were,

That Seint Thomas this withseide: nothing apaid hi
nere. 1640

“Sire Archēbischof,” he seide: “ich ihurě wel thi
wrong;

“The King the beodeth love ynouȝ: the strif is on thé
ilong.

“That woldest bynyme his lawes: that nere nevere
bynome,

“And habbeth ibeo iholde of Kinges: that bifore him
come.

“Gret maister thu woldest alondě beo: to moche were
thi poër;

“To moche ich have honúred thé: in mi londě her.

“Bote thu grantie the riȝte lawes: bicomē ich wole
thi fo;

“And if we beoth thine fon bothe: ynot whoder thu
wolt go.”

Seint Thomas huld him evere in on: the Kingēs werē
wrothe,

And departede fram him so: in gretě wrathě bothe.

Hi stode and madeke noyse ynouȝ: Seint Thomas he
stod stille: 1651

For rather he wolde thaně deth: than herě lithere
wille.

Nou helpě Crist this holi man: for neode he hadde tho!
 Nou bothe the Kinges beoth his fon: whoder mai he
 nou go?

Iflemmed he was of Engēlonde: and of France also:
 His men makede tho deol ynouȝ: and nustě tho
 what do.

And namliche his eunnēs men: that for him iflemmed
 were.

“Louerd,” hi seide, “allas allas: that we of lyvė
 nere!

“We beoth idryve of Engēlonde: and of France also,
 “What scholdě morě sorwe, Louerd: than is icome
 ous to?” 1660

Seint Thomas him makede glad ynouȝ: and gladede
 also his men anon.

“Beoth stille,” he seide, “for ȝe makieth: neodles deol
 echon.

“ȝourě mete ȝe mowe aswynke: as gode men doth
 menion.

“Beo ȝe fram me, hi wolleth beo freondes: that nou
 beoth ȝourě fon.

“For ȝe nabbeth hate of noman: bote for me with
 wouȝ;

“And beo ȝe fram me iwend: me wole ȝou lovie
 ynouȝ.”

“A sire! merci,” quath this othere: “we witeth wel
 al this:

“For ous silvė nis ous noȝt: bote for thé, iwis.

“For we sehulle wel ourc mete iwinnc: ac we nute
 what thu sehalt do: 1669

“Bote thu sehulle for hunger deye: louerd, whar thu
sehullē so.”

“Ich mai bidde mi mete,” quath Seint Thomas: “ynam
to god therto;

“God ȝuldē alle that eni god: for his love me hath ido.

“Bituenē Burgoigne and Province: as me doth me
understonde,

“Gode men beoth and almēsful: and of eundē londe.

“If ynemot in Francē beo: thider ieh wolē wende,

“And bidde mi mete for Godēs love: if he hit me
wolē sende.

“ȝut som god man me mai iseo: if hit is Godēs wille,

“And habbe reuthe of me, and helpē me: that meseise
me ne spille.”

His men for him and for hem silve: makede deol
ynouȝ:

This gode man among al his wo: confortede hem and
louȝ. 1680

Allas the deol that ther was: that such aman bitidde!
That tharehebisshop of Canterbure: scholde his metē
bidde!

Deore abouȝte he holi ehurehe: and holi ehurehē riȝte!
Wel auȝte eeh man her after drede: aȝen holi ehurehe
to fiȝte.

As eeh man his levē nom: aboutē forto wende,
And this holi man ek, in his half: whoder God him
woldē sende;

Whoder God wolde, to bidde his mete: forte God him
sende betere won;

God sende his grace among hem alle: that sori were
cehon.

The Kinges messenger of France: to Seint Thomas
com gon,

And seide that the King him bad: to him come anon.
Forth wende this holi man: ac he nuste for whichē
thinge, 1691

He tok him al to Godes wille: and com bifore the
Kinge.

The King anon, so he him iseȝ: toward him com gon,
And to his fet ful akneo: and eride merci anon.

“Blynd ich have ibeo,” he seide: “and that ich under-
stonde.

“Al mi lond to thi wille nouth: ich bitakē thé an
honde.

“The while ich am in Francē Kyng: ich wole thé
fynde ynouȝ,

“For ich understonde that sothē nouthe: that the King
hath thé wouȝ.”

To Seint Denys he sende aȝé: this godē man, iwis,
And fond him ther to spene ynou: him and allē his.
More he dude his miȝtē ȝut: and bituene hem sende his
sonde, 1701

To bringe acord bituenē hem: and the King of
Engēlonde.

At Mount Martre in France: this dai was ynome:
Thider were the Kinges bothe: and Seint Thomas
icome.

The King of Francē dude his miȝte: that hi were at
one ibrouȝt

Ac tho hi hadde to gadere ispeke: al hit was for noȝt.
For the King swor evere his grete oth: that he nolde
acord non,

Bote the statutz of Clarendone: iholdē were echon.

And Seint Thomas swor, bi his day: that he nolde
holde noȝt on;

Rathere he wolde thane deth afonge: bote ther were
other iwon. 1710

Mid wraththē hi departedē: and nolde non other
do:

Seint Thomas gan to sikē sore: and inliche wepe also.

“Loucrd,” he seidē, “help me nou: for thi swetē
wounde!

“Other holi churchē is upe the poynte: to beo ibroȝt
to grounde.

Maister Herbard of Bozham: that on of his clerkēs
was,

In priveité bituene hem tuo: seidē to Seint Thomas;

“Sire,” (he seide,) “the Mountmartre: this hul
iclipid is,

“As hi habbeth ispeke of the pays: of holi churchē,
iwis;

“And as the name saith of this hul: ich douti on mi
thoȝt,

“Thurf thi martirdom holi churchē: worth to riȝte
ibroȝt.” 1720

This other seide, and siȝtē sore: “God ȝeve hit
werē so,

“That thurf mi deth holi churchē: were ibroȝt therto,

“That heo were in riȝtē lawe: and in god pecs ibroȝt:

“ And if ich hit miȝte bringe therto: of mi deþh nere
me no t.”

Aȝen midsomer hit biȝful: that the King gan under-
stonde,

And in wraththe of Seint Thomas: aȝen wende to
Engēlonde,

To seiȝi Henri his sone: with al his kynēdom,

And to crouni him, and longe him thoȝte: er he therto
com.

And his consail that his was: mest of allē thinge,

Holi churche and Seint Thomas: in unriȝt forto
bringe. 1730

For the archēbischope riȝt: of Canterbury hit is,

To crouni the King of Engēlond: and non other, iwis;

And the King, in prejudice of him: to bynyme his
riȝte,

Let other Bischops crouni his sone: and cudde a lutel
miȝte.

Four Bischops him crounede: aȝen riȝt and wone;

Tharchebischoþ of Everwyke: and the Bischop of
Londone;

And the Bischop of Salesbury: and of Roucetre also;

At Westmynstre, in Seint Peteres churche: this dedē
was ido.

The fader servedē the sone: attē mēte, aday; 1739

And with the reaumē seidē him: as al that fole isay.

This tethinges of this Kinges: to Seint Thomas come;

Of the unriȝt he sendē some: to the Court of Rome.

The Pope him sende his lettres aȝé: and his bulle, that
me scholde

Amansi the King and his consail: which tymē that he
wolde;

And suspendi the Bisehops: that such unriȝt dude
there;

And entrediti al Engeland: forto hit amended were.
Seint Thomas athuld the lettre: forte God the gracie
sende,

That he miȝte the dedē do: whan he to Engeland
wende.

ȝut com Henri King tholthe: oftsone into Francee,
And the King of Francee was anuyed: of his distur-
banee; 1750

And wende aboute to makie acord. and bituene sendē
faste,

So that, as God hit wolde: hi acordede attē laste.

A Seintē Marie dai Magdalene: ido was this dede,

In a stede, that me elipeth: Traitoures Mede.

Also furde thaeord: as the mede ieliped was:

For therafter in a lutē stounde: nothing isene hit nas.

Moehe hi speke in priveité: and in grete love wende
atuo;

And Seint Thomas wende that the King: wolde al his
willē do.

Maister Herbard of Bozam: to the King siththē
wende,

Upe foreward that hi hadde: as Seint Thomas him
sende; 1760

And bad him hotē ȝulde aȝé: as furforth as he miȝte,
That his ballifs in his bisehopriehe: nomē mid unriȝte.
“ȝé,” quath he, “wolde he so? ȝut he sehal abide.

“Ieh wole furst lokě hou he wole: him bere in other side.

“Peraventure he mai so faire: him berě aʒé me,

“That ich him wole ʒulde eeh ferthing: therfore cheosě he.”

Lo which acord this was: and hou sone ido!

The anuy that hadde Seint Thomas: nas noʒt yēnded so.

Maister Herbard wende aʒé: and tolde Seint Thomas fore. 1769

“ʒé,” thoʒte this holi man: “this pees is forlore.”

Him silf Seint Thomas siththe: to the Kingě wende,

To speķ more of this acord: if he hit niʒte amende.

The King him wolcomede as liʒte: as he ne huld noʒt therto;

And wende him forth, and Seint Thomas: to hure his masse also.

He was iwoned to hure his masse: as hit ful to the day,

And tho nom he forth a soulě masse: that noʒt therto ne lay.

For he nolde eussě massěeos: to eussě Seint Thomas:

This holi man thoʒtě wel: whi thenehesoun was.

Wel narewe the King him bithoʒte: to dryve his lither thoʒt:

This acord was sone ido: and to feble ende ibroʒt. 1780

Tho the massě was ido: in eonsail longe hi stode.

Ofte the King up breide the he: him dude er of gode;

Hou loʒ man to him he eom: and in which poër he him broʒte,

And that he auʒte wel uvele aʒen him beo: if he him wel bithoʒte.

So hi were togadere longe: and tho hi hadde al ido,
 Theȝ hit lutē while ilaste: with love hi departede atuo.
 Seint Thomas gan to sikē sore: tho he him hadde understonde,

That he hadde so longe ibeo: out of Engēlonde;
 Theȝ hit were aȝen his wille: him thoȝte hit a lither dede,

That his bischopriehe hadde ibeo: withoute govern
 and rede. 1790

To the King of Franee he wendē furst: and to the gode
 men and hende,

And faire of hem his leve he nom: to Engēlonde to
 wende.

He thonkede hem of al onúr: that hi him hadde ido,
 And with fair eondut and gret love: fram hem wendē
 so.

With gret honúr he wende of Franee: tōward Engēlonde;

Attē havene he gan abide: that me elipeth Whitsonde.

The lettres that he hadde of Rome: to Engēlond he
 sende,

To do the sentenee al abrod: bifore him er he wende.
 The Archebischop of Everwyk: in sentenee he let do,
 And the Bischop of Salesbure: and of Londone also;
 For hi hadde ierouned the ȝungē King: aȝen his digneté,
 With unriȝt in his bischopriehe: he amansede allē threo.
 Tho the tethinge to hem eom: hi makeden hem wroth
 ynouȝ, 1803

And thretnede this holi man: theȝ hit were with wouȝ.

Seint Thomas wende toward schipe: to Engēlond to
wende:

A man ther com fram Engēlond: aȝen him, god and
hende.

“A sire!” he seide, “for God’s love: ne passe noȝt
ȝut the see;

“For knyȝtes ther beoth in Engēlonde: iredi thé to slee.

“At eehe havene hi awaitieth: to kepe thé, meni on:

“If thu comest among hem ouȝt: thu worst aslawe
anon.” 1810

“Certēs, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “ynele no leng
abide;

“To Engēlond ich wole nou drawe: itidē what bitide.

“Theȝ ich beo to drawe lyme mele: ynele abide namore:

“To longe ich have thannes ibeo: and that me reweth
sore.

“The soul’s that ich have to loke: six ȝer and more,
iwis,

“Withoutē warde habbeth ibeo: allas to longe hit is!

“Wel ich wot ich wordē ther: aslawe, er comē longe:

“Ich wole for holi ehurehē riȝt: thanē deth fawe
afonge.

“Ac biddeth for me to Jesu Crist: ich bidde, par charité.

“Ae tofore alle othere namēliche: o thing biddeth
for me, 1820

“That God, for his holi graee: to Canterbury me sende,

“That ich mote quik other ded: to myn owe churchē
wende;

“If ynemay noȝt alyvē come: er ich ymartred beo,

“That mi bodi motē ded: God hit granti me!”

His leve he nom dulfulliche: to schipe he wendē tho:
He thonkede him al onúr: that he him hadde ido.

And biteihte al Francē Jesu Crist: and blescede hit
wel faste,

That folc makede deol ynouȝ: the sorewe longe ilaste.
At Doveře werē Knyȝtēs ȝare: that ihurde of him
telle,

As sonē as he come up there: iredi him to quelle. 1830
Sire Renald de Warcne: and Sire Randolf de Broke,
And also Gerveis the Scherreve: gret folc with him
toke,

To kepe this seli man at Doveře: whan he come up of
the sec,

And, bote he wolde here willē do: al ȝarē him to sle.
To the havene of Sandwich: that schip wel evne
drouȝ,

And thother him abide at Doveře: with threting ynouȝ.
In the schipēs seyl anheȝ: this holi man let do,
A croicē that me fur iseȝ: isowed faste therto.

That was signe of his banèr: for other ne kipte he
non:

Men stode at Sandwych, and bihulde: the croicē meni on.
“We scoth nou hiderward,” hi seide: “oure Bischop
Thomas.” 1841

The ȝut he was fur in the see: me wistē ho hit was.
The cri was sonē widē couth: that folc orn swithe
ynouȝ;

And er he were to londe icome: faste aȝen him drouȝ.
Hi cride and thonkede Jesu Crist: that hi him moste
alyve iseo;

Hi wolcomede him with jōye ynouȝ: ne miȝte noman
more beo.

The thriddē dai of the Advent: bifore Cristēs masse
hit was,

That he com thus to Engēlond: this gode man Seint
Thomas;

The sovethe ȝer that he furst wende: out of Engēlonde,
For six ȝer and a month he was fleme: as ich under-
stonde. 1850

This was ellevē hondred ȝer: and sixti and tene,
After that God an urthe: in his moder alizte, ich wene.
The word to this Kniȝtēs com: to Dovere, of this cas,
Hou Seint Thomas the holi man: at Sandwyeh aryved
was.

To Sandwyeh hi wendē faste: Seint Thomas hi fonde
anon;

With lither semblant ynouȝ: hi wolcomede him echon.
Iii seide, “ Hou havestou thanē wey: to Engēlonde
ynome,

“ That desturbest the lond: as sone as thu er icome,

“ And also al holi churchē: as we aldai iseothe,

“ That amansest the Bischops: that thyne felawēs
beoth? 1860

“ Thu auȝtest mid allē lawe: love pees and arere,

“ And ther nas nevere alondē pees: siththe thu bishop
were.

“ If thu thenchest wel to do: withdrauȝ thi dede, we
redeth, sone;

“ Other me schal do bi thé: as bi such a man is to done.”

“ Mi leovē freond,” quath Seint Thomas: “ soth hit is
ynouȝ,

“That mansing ich let do: mid riȝte and noȝt mid
wouȝ;

“And bi mi louerdes leve, the King: that ech man
in riȝte were,

“That so gret trepás ne wendē forth: bote hit amended
were,

“And were eftsonē afterward: mid unriȝt and aȝé
lawe,

“In disertcisoun of mi churchē: to custume idrawe.
Tho the Kniȝtes ihurde: that the King consentede
therto, 1871

Hi bilevede here gretē mod: and here threting also,
And in faire manere bede him: undo his mansinge,
To norisehi love to his fclawes: bituene him and the
Kinge.

So that respit bituenē hem: of this answerē hi nome,
Forte Seint Thomas amorwe: to Canterbury come.

Seint Thomas amorwe: to Cantebure drouȝ;

The contrai aȝen him eom: with joye and blisse ynouȝ.
Eeh preost somnede his parosche: clanliche, in eeh
ende;

To beo ȝare aȝen him: with proccessioun to wende;
So that with proccessioun: meni and faire ynouȝ, 1881
With eroiz and with tapres: the contray aȝen him
drouȝ.

With croiz and with taperes: ne miȝte non morē beo,
Hi thonkede allē Jesu Crist: that hi miȝte him
alyve isco.

Of bellen and of taperes: so gret was the soun,
Of instrument and of song: tho he eom into the toun,

That me ne miȝte ihure other thing: for the noyse so
gret;

More joye ne miȝtē beo: than was in the stret.

As oure Louerd a Palmsonedaí: honúred was ynouȝ,
Tho he rod into Jerusalem: and toward his dethē
drouȝ; 1890

Also was Seint Thomas: as me miȝte iseo there,
For oure Louerd wolde that his deth: ilichē to his were.
Er this holi man, Seint Thomas: to his churehē come,
The monekes with processoun: aȝen him thane wei
nome.

Of his palefrai he aliȝte adoun: and the monekes
echon,

To the heȝe weved myldēliche: hi ladde him up anon.
Tho he hadde at churehe ido: al that was to done,
With his men myldēliche: to his in he wendē sone.
Nadde Seint Thomas noȝt ibeo: at his paleys wel longe,
That this Kniȝtēs eft ne come: here answeƿe to
afonge. 1900

Hi beđen as hi duden er: undo his mansinge,
And assoilli the Bisschops: that he let therinne bringe.
“Beau frere,” quath Seint Thomas: “that ne mai ich
do noȝt;

“For hi beoth in sentenee: thurf the Pope ibroȝt.

“And ynemai noȝt undo his dede: ȝe wite, in nonē
place;

“Ae noȝt for than ich tristē wel: so mochē to his
grace,

“That ich wole assoilli hem: in thissē formē, fawe,

“That hi dô surance forto stonde: to holi churchě
lawe,

“And to the heved of holi churche: and in other
formě non.”

The Kniȝtēs tho hi hurdě this: faste hi chidde echon;
And tho hi nadde non other word: for wraththě forth
hem wende, 1911

And tolde the Bischops here answe: that hem thider
sende.

The Bischops hem makede wroth ynouȝ: and thret-
nede faste,

And nathēles the tueye of hem: withdrowe hem attē
laste.

The Bischop of Salesbury: and of Londone also,
To holi churchě woldě stonde: and to hire loking also.
Ac tharchebischop of Everwyk: anon him withsede:
“Daithat,” he seide, “that astonde: so folliche at ȝoure
rede,

“Forto don ous in his grace: that evere was oure fo.

“He hath ido ous meni schame: and thanne he wole do
ous mo. 1920

“Theȝ he habbe of ȝou poër: he nath non of me,

“For Archebischop ich am: ȝe wite, as wel as he.

“Ich wot ich have a lutě cofre: that stent hol and
sonnd,

“Ther beoth ȝut inně attē leste: eigť hondred pound.

“ȝare ich am to speně that: ȝut me thencheth to lute,

“Forto awreke ous wel of him: and aleggc his prute.

“Wende we to the Kinge anon: and telle we of this
dede,

“ And that him ne tideth nevereft pees: bote he him
therof rede.”

This threo Bishops hastēliche: over see thanē wei
nome;

Alute biforē Cristes masse: to the King hi come. 1930

Hi fonden him in Normandie: hi fulle adoun akneo;

Hi beden him holden up his onúr: and here help to
beo.

Hi tolden him hou this gode man: tho he to londē eom,
Desturbede al holi churehe: and the kynēdom;

And hou he hadde with gretē prute: in sentenee ido

Alle that makede his sone Kyng: and assentede therto;

And hou he, in despit of him: dude suche lither dede,

And the lawes of his lond: alout riȝt withsede.

Theȝ King the he hurdē this: for wraththe he was neȝ
wod;

He ȝeode up and doun as witles: and ofte in thoȝtē
stod. 194

“ If alle that makedi mi sone King: he manseth,” he
sede,

“ Mid the furste he manseth me: for hit was mi dede.

“ Ho miȝte in suchē sorinisse: such lyf longē lede?

“ The traitour aspilleth al that lond: and bringth ous
in wrecehede.”

Ofte he eursede alle: that he hadde forth ibroȝt,

That hi of the falsē preost: his fo, ne wreke him noȝt,

That desturbed al that lond: and broȝtē in wrecehede.

As he ȝeodē up and doun: and this wordēs sede,

His Kniztēs, tho hi hurdē this: hi stodē sonē stille:

Hi bithoȝtē stillēliche: to paye the Kingēs wille. 1950

Foure that the mestē schrewen were: bitho;ten of a
gyle,

Sire Renald le Fizours: and Sire Hughe de Moreville,
And Sire Williem the Traei: and Sire Richard the
Brut;

Here namēs, for here schrewede: ne beoth no;t for;utē
ut.

Hi nome hem to redē stillēliche: to passi the see,
And forto paye the Kingēs wille: Seint Thomas to sle.
Stillēliche hi wendē forth: that no man hit nuste.

Hi were ne;what attē see: er the King hit wiste:
Tho the King hit under;et: after hem he sende, 1959
That hi levede here folie: and a;en to him wende.
Ac this messenger ne mi;tē no;t: atake hem mid no ginne,
For er he com to the see: hi were fur with inne,
Tho makede the King deol ynou;: that hi were forth
iwend, .

And that the messenger hem ne oftok: that he after
hem isend.

Seint Thomas at Canterbure: a Midewynteres day,
Stod and prechedē that fole: as meni man isay.

In his predicioun: he gan to sikē sore,
And deol and sorwe makede ynou;: ne mi;tē no man
more.

He wep and lokedē therto: hou the teres urne adoun;
Ther was ek meni weping e;e: sone into al the toun.

“Mi leovē freond,” quath Seint Thomas: wepingē wel
sore, 1961

“;oure preost ieh habbe awhile beo: ae ynemai nou
nomore.

“For myn endedai is neȝ icome: ynē worthē noȝt her
longe,

“Ieh schal for holi churchē riȝt: quik thane deth
afonge.

“Biddeth for me, for Godēs love: and for holi churehe
also.

“That is almost ibroȝt to groundē: bote God nyme
ȝeme therto.

“Ac thane deth ich wole fawe afonge: whan hit is
Godēs wille,

“For the riȝt of holi churehe: rather than heo aspille.”

Boc and candle he nom anon: and amansedē riȝt there,
Alle that werrede holi churehe: and aȝen hire riȝtēs
were; 1970

And nameliche Sire Randolf de Broke: and Sire Ro-
bert de Brok also,

That the bishopriehe of Canterbury: mid unriȝt
hadde misdo.

For the while Seint Thomas was out of londe: the
King Henri bitoc

The bishopriehe, al to loke: to Sire Randolf de Brok;
And he makede Robert de Brok: his elerk that was
tho,

Wardeyn therof under him: that dude the lond wel wo.
He destruyde al the bishopriehe: and to him nom and
drouȝ,

And let him gret bold arere: of that he nom with wouȝ.
Therinne a Cristēs massē dai: tho this mansing was ido,
He sat and et nobliche: and meni with him also. 1980
He castē houndēs of his bred: that bifore him lay,

And everech hound hit forsoc: as al that fole isay.
 Tho handlede he other bred: and let menge hit, attē
 laste,

With other bred ther biside: and amonge the houndes
 hit caste.

Al that he ihandlede hadde: the houndēs hit forlete,
 And chose out thother ther among: and clanliche hit
 ete.

The mansing was on him isene: anon thulkē day;
 Ther was gret wreche of God: as al that fole isay.
 Whan hi that bred forsoke: that tofore him lay,
 Bi a Fridai, thulkē ȝer: was Cristēs massē day. 1990
 As this four lithere Kniȝtes: of wham we gonnē telle,
 To Engēlondē were icome: Seint Thomas forto
 quelle;

To the castel of Saltwode: a Seint Thomas dai hi come,
 Six myle fram Canterbury: and ther here in nome.
 And Sire Randolf de Brok: to hem com wel sonē.
 Thulkē niȝt hi nome here red: the lithere dede to done.
 Amorwe, a Childerne massē dai: (as God the gracē
 sende,)

Sire Randolf de Brok: to Canterburē wende,
 Forto enquire of Seint Thomas: whar hi him miȝtē
 fynde,

That he ne drowe him noȝt awei: ne huddē him bi-
 hynde. 2000

This Kniȝtēs thanē Tuēsdai: nolde no leng bileve,
 Ae wendē forth to Canterbure: wel er hit were eve.
 Aboutē tyme of evēsong: to Seint Thomas hi come,
 Thane wei, baldēliche: to his chambre hi nome.

Hi come, and fonden him stillēliche: in his chambre
sonde,

With his privei clerkes: and gret consail hadde an-
sonde.

Sire Renald le Fizours: grimlichē forth wende:

“Sire,” he seide, “oure louerd the King: in message
hider ous sende.

“Fram him out of Normandie: an heste we habbeth
ibroȝt,

“That thu do his comandement: that thu ne bileve
hit noȝt; 2010

“And that thu wendē to his sone: that ȝung Kyng
ymaked is,

“And amende aȝen him that thu hast: his faderido amis;

“And swere him oth to beo him true: and of the
baronye also,

“That thu holdest of him in chief: do that thu auȝtest
to do.

“The clerkēs that thu bringest with thé: if hi wollet
her astonde,

“Swerie the King true to beo: other hi sehulle out of
londe.”

“Beau sire,” quath this godē man: “ȝnelē thé noȝt
lie:

“Ich wole do the King that ich auȝte: for the baronie.

“Ac nolde God that holi echurche: underfote were
so,

“That ich, other mi clerkes: eni of hem do. 2020

“Thu wost wel that alle the lewede men: that beōth
in his londe,

“Ne swerieth noȝt thulkě oth: as ich understonde.

“Nou wolde ȝe holi churchē: in gret servagě do,

“In more than a lewed man: nai, ne worth hit noȝt so.”

“Me thinȝth wel,” quath Sire Renald: “thu nelt do
nothing,

“Of the heste that we bringeth thé: fram oure louerd
the King.

“We hoteth thé ek, in his half: that thu assoilli also

“The Bischop[s] that thu hast: in sentence ido.”

“Beau sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “hit nis mi dedě
noȝt:

“Ac thurf the Popěs owě mouth: hi beoth in sentence
ibroȝt; 2030

“And, thu wost wel, ynemai noȝt: the Popěs dede
undo.”

“Thurf the Pope,” quath Sire Renald: “ido? thurf
thé hit is so.”

“If the Pope,” quath Seint Thomas: “hath in sen-
tence ibroȝt,

“That habbeth mi churchē misdo: hit ne mispaeth
me noȝt.”

“In eche manère thu schewest wel:” Sire Renald seide
tho,

“Forto anuye oure louerd the King: and thu ert his fo.

“Whar thurf we wel iseothe: thu wilnest him do wo,

“And bynyme his crouně, if thu miȝt: ac hit ne schal
noȝt go so;

“And king thu woldest beo in his stede: thu ne worst
nevermo.”

“ Certes, sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “ yně thenchě
nojt therto. 2040

“ Ae ich him wole rathere therto helpe: so moehě as
ich may,

“ And for him and his honúr: ich biddě niȝt and day.

“ For ther nis non an urthe: that ich lovie more, iwis,

“ Than ich do him, sauf his fader: that mi louerd is.

“ A Seintě Marie dai Magdalene: (to sothe ich siggě
thé,)

“ Thacord was ymaked: bituene mi louerd and me;

“ And he seide me that ich lete amausi: alle that
habbeth misdo

“ Mi ehurche, that is his owě moder: and that ich
habbe ido.”

“ Avoy! sire preost!” quath this other: “ to moche
thu spext neȝ,

“ Thu desclandrest thin owě louerd: thou nert
nothlin[g] sleȝ. 2050

“ Saistou that mi louerd the King: in mansing let do

“ Alle that makede his sone King: ne consentede he
therto?

“ Nas hit al bi his owě dede: and bi non other maněs
lore?

“ Avoi! sire preost!” he seide, “ bitheneh thé bet:
ne sai thu so nomore.”

“ Sire,” quath Seint Thomas: “ thu wost wel hit was
so:

“ For thu were ther tho thé silf: and meni other therto,

“ Archbischops and Bischops: and other grete and
heȝe;

“ȝe, vyf hondred men and mo: as thé silf iseȝe.”

“Beo stille!” quath this lithere Kniȝt: “hold thi mouth, ich rede.

“Thumissaist foule thin owě louerd: daithat hit so sede.

“Ho miȝtě suffri such desclandre: bote he nomě wrecche? 2061

“Bi the fei that ich owe to God: me schal thé another teche.”

His felawes also everechone: here arměs abrod caste,
And furde as men that wodě were: and thretneď faste.
To the monekes hi wende anon: “cometh forth,” hi sede,
“ȝe holdeth her the Kingěs fo: witeth him wel, ich rede:

“And her to the Kingěs wille: his bodi habbě ȝare,

“Other he schal ȝoure londes aboute: and ȝoure maners make bare.”

“Sire Renald,” quath Seint Thomas: “wenestou ich wole fleo?

“Nai, pardé, noȝt ofót: for the King ne for thé!” 2070

“Bi Gode, sire preost,” quath Renaud: “bi than thu wost than ende:

“Thi fleoinge worth swithě schort: thu ne schal noȝt fur wende.”

This Kniȝtěs in grete wraththe ynouȝ: wende forth anon,

And lete hem armi swithě wel: and come aȝé echon,
With swerděs and with axes: and mid other arměs mo;
Robert de Brok, the lithere clérk: was with hem tho.
Into the cloistre of Canterbure: with grete noysc hi gonne weve:

The monekes songe eompli: for hit was neȝ eve.
 Summe for this gretȝ noyse: fulle adoun for fere;
 Summe bigonne to fleo aboute: as hi witles were. 2080
 Seint Thomas nom a eroicee anhonde: and other armȝ
 non,

And therwith wel baldȝliehe: ȝeode aȝen his fon.
 The monekes urnȝ to him sone: "Sire, merci!" hi sede,
 "For Godȝ love abyȝ ȝut: oure Louerd thȝ mai wel
 rede.

"Suffre that we helpȝ thȝ: other that we with thȝ
 deye."

Some wolde maki the dores: tho hi this iseye.

"Bileveth," quath this holi man: "ȝe ne doth noȝt as
 the wise:

"Singeth forth ȝour evȝsong: and oure Louerdes ser-
 vise.

"Me ne sehal of holi ehurehe: eastel mak non.

"Leteth folles astounde awede: and in here folies gon."

This Kniȝtȝ eomȝ reken in: here folies forto do:

"Whar is," hi seide, "the traitour: and fals Bisehop
 also?" 2092

Seint Thomas nom the eroiz anhonde: and answerede
 his fon:

"Her ich am, Godȝ preost: ae traitour nan ich non.

"Seeth him that wole ȝu fleo: other thredȝ ȝoure
 thretinge.

"No prestere ne beoth ȝoure swerdes: me to dethȝ
 bringe,

"That myn hurtȝ prestere nis: thane dethȝ forto take:

"For the riȝt of holi ehurehe: ynele thane deth forsake."

Ther wendē forth on, anon: and his hure of drouȝ,
And his mantel afterward: mid vylté ynouȝ. 2100

Sire Renald le Fizours: pursuede him anon.

“Sire Renald,” quath Seint Thomas: “hou schal this
nou gon?”

“Ich have thé oftē god ido: thé and othere mo.”

“Thu schalt sone,” quath this other: “wite hou hit
schal go.

“Traitour! thu ert ded anon: other neli do!”

“To sothe,” quath [this] holi man: “prest ich am therto.

“For the riȝtes of holi churchē: of the deth ich am
fawe,

“If heo miȝte therafterward: in pees beo and in lawe.

“Ac ich bidde ȝu, if ȝe sicheth me: in ourē Louerdes
name,

“That ȝe ne come neȝ no man: him to no schame:

“For non other gulti nis: of that ȝe witeth me; 2111

“Alle gulteles hi beoth bote ich one: therfore siker
ȝe beo;

“And also gulteles as hi beoth: harmles leteth hem
wende.”

This gode man sat adoun akneo: tho he seȝ his ende:

And forto fongē martirdom: the heved he bed adoun,

And wel softe, as somme ihurde: seide his oreisoun.

“Oure Louerd and Seint Marie: and Scint Dionis also,

“And alle the avowes of the churchē: that ich an on
ido;

“Ich bitake mi soul here: and holi churchē riȝte.”

ȝut he bad for holi churchē: tho he nadde non other
miȝte. 2120

Sire Renald le Fizours: mest sehrewe of eehon,
 Forto smyte this holi man: his swerd he drouȝ anon.
 Ae Edward Grim, that was his elere: of Grante-
 brugge ibore;

To helpe his louerd, if he miȝte: his arm pulte bifore.
 He wondede his arm swithe sore: the blod orn adoun:
 With thulkě dint he smot also: Seint Thomas upe the
 eroun,

That the blod orn bi his faee adoun: bi the riȝt half
 of the wounde.

Loude gradde this lithere Kniȝt: "smiteth alle to
 grounde!" 2128

Edward Grim and alle his men: that aboute him were,
 Urne aboute eeh in his side: upe the wevedes for fere.
 As hit bi oure Louerd furde: tho the Gywes him nome,
 His disciples flowe anon: he nuste whar hi bieome.
 For in the Godspel hit is iwrite: as oure Louerd silf
 sede,

"Whan me smyteth the sehephurde: the schep wollet
 to sprede."

And oure Louerde bad me ne scholde: his disciples
 non harm-do:

Theron thoȝtē Seint Thomas: and bad for his men also.
 Another Kniȝt smot Seint Thomas: in thulkě silvē
 wounde,

And makede buye his faee adoun: and loke toward
 the grounde.

The thridde in thulkě silvē stede: therafter him smot
 anon, 2139

And makede him aloute adoun: his faeē upe the ston.

In thulkě stede the furthě smot: that thothere hadde
er ido,

And the poynt of his swerd brak: in the marbelston
atuo.

For honour of the holi man: that therwith was
ismyte,

Thulke poynt at Canterbury: the monekes witieth ȝute.
With thulkě stroc he smot of: the sculle and eke the
croune,

That the brayn orn abrod: upe the pavēment ther-
doune.

The white brayn was ymengd: with red blod there;
The colour was fair to iseo: theȝ hit reuthě were.

And alround hit orn aboute his heved: as theȝ hit
were a diademe, 2049

And alround theraboutě lay: wherof me tok grete ȝeme.
For whan me peynt an halewe: ȝe ne seoth noȝt
bileved,

That ther nis ipeynt around: alaboute the heved;

That is iclepid diademe: as me seȝ ther a fair cas,

Bi the diademe of his heved: that he halewe was.

Tho this holi man was aslawe: this Kniȝtēs gradde
echone,

“This traitour is to dethe ibroȝt: wende we hunne
anon.

“Sueth ous the Kingēs men: and alle that with him
beoth:

“Of this traitour we beoth awreke: as we alle iseoth.

“He thoȝte beo heȝere than the King: and bynyme
his croune,

“And to noȝt bringe al that lond: and nou he lith ther-
doun!” 2060

As the Gywes dude bi oure Louerd: tho hi wolde him
to dethē do,

That he makede him king, and non nas: and Godes
Sone also.

Tho this lithere Kniȝtes: fram Seint Thomas were
agon,

Robert de Brok him bithoȝte: and aȝé turnede anon,
And thurf his seullē smot the swerd: fur with inne
the heved,

That the sculle al amti was: and no brayn therinne
bilevede.

As the Gywēs smyte oure Louerd: into the hurte
grounde,

After his deth, with a spere: and makede him the
vyftē wounde.

This lithere men alle in o stede: smitē Seint Thomas,
In the sculle evene abrod: as the crounē was. 2070

He nas noȝt the man that wolde: his heved enes
withdrawe,

Ne fondē forto blinche a strok: ne his fot aweiward
wave;

Ne enēs grone ne makie cri: ae myldēliehe and softe
His heved huld eveneforth: theȝ hi smyten ofte.

This lithere Kniȝtēs wende anon: to his tresorie,
And breke his dorēs and his eofres: and dude here
robberie;

Hi nome his clothēs and his hors: and his tresour
also,

Chartres and other privei writes: that in his cofres
were ido.

Hi bitoke hem Sire Randolf de Brok: that he to the
Kingě wende, 2079

Therwith into Normandie: and sigge that hi him sende,
That he dude therwith what he wolde: and if ther eni
were,

Aȝen his franchise and his wille: that he hit sone to
tere.

Among his tresour hi fonde ek: tui wel strongě here,
Wel vylliche hi hem nome and caste awei: as hi noȝt
worth nere;

And natheles hi bithoȝtě hem: and were somdel in
fere,

And bispeke bituene hem stillěliche: that he god man
were.

Sire Williem de Traei siththě tolde: of this gode man
Seint Thomas,

Thé Bischop of Excestre in sehrefte: as he isehryvě
was,

That tho Seint Thomas was islawe: and hi outward
were,

Hem agros so sorě that hi were: ne; witles for fere.
For hem thoȝtě as hi outward wende: ne ȝeoden hi
noȝt so swithe, 2091

That the urthe openede hem aȝé: to swolewe hem
alyve.

Tho Seint Thomas aslawě was: and the Kniȝtes out
agon,

Into al the toun of Canterbure: couth hit was anon;

That fole eride dulfulliche: and to churchě drowe,
 And honurede that holi bodi: and custě hit ynowe.
 The monekes come sone thider: and this holi bodi toke,
 In a bere faire hi hit leide: and tofore an auter hit
 woke.

The face was whyt and eler ynouȝ; and no blod ther-
 inne,

Bote fram the lift half of his foreheved: to the lift half
 of his ehinne, 2100

A smal rewe ther was of blod: that over his nosě
 drouȝ;

No more blod nas in his necke: as that folc iseȝ ynouȝ.
 The wonden bledde al longě niȝt: me miȝte hente
 therof, iwis:

In the churehe of Canturbure: of the blod ȝut ther is.
 Ae he nas of nothe worse hen: for al that he bleddě
 there,

Bote cler and ihewed wel ynouȝ; as he alyvč were:
 Sumdel laȝinge with his mouth: he lai as he slepe.
 That fole was aboute him thicke: that blod forto kepe;
 And forto gaderi of that blod: that ischad was in the
 grounde,

And of the urthě that was biled: glad weren hi whan
 hi hit founde. 2110

For that nolde noman hem werne: thicke awei me hit
 drouȝ,

And ho miȝte him eněs tuocho: he was glad ynouȝ.
 Amorwe this lithere Kniȝtes: armeden hem eftsone,
 And withoute the touně nome here red: what hem was
 to done.

Hi radden hem to nyme this bodi: and with wylde hors
to drawe,

And on a warȝtreo hongen hit siththe: and seide hit
was lawe:

For he nas worthē to beon ibured: in ehurehe, ne in
churchȝerd.

This monekes overtrowede this: and were sumdel aferd.

Hi burede this holi bodi: in a stede ther biside,

With wel lute solempneté: for hi ne therste no leng
abide. 2120

This holi bodi was ibured: in the minstrē of Jesu
Crist,

Bifore Seint Austines weved: and Seint Johnes the
Baptist.

Hi ne therste so longe abide: that the bodi iwasehē
were,

Ae al ungreithed hi leide hit in: and hijedē for fere.

As hi strupten his elothēs of: al abouten him hi fonde

Clerkēs elothēs, as hit biful: ae another attē grounde:

For monekes abytt was withinne: as hi fondē there,

Bothe couele and stamyn: hi fondē next the here.

So that he was withinnē monek: and seeuler withoute:

Nuste noman his priveité: of that hem was aboute.

Next his fleseh his herē was: with knottēs menion;

That deope in his fleseh hi wode: and summe anon to
the bon. 2132

Therof he haddē sehurte and breeh: lutel ese he miȝtē
vele;

So that he was therinne ibounde: fram schuldre to the
hele:

With lutel ese he miȝtē sitte: and unésēlichē ride,
 And unésēlichē liggē ek: and wende up aither side.
 Ful of wormēs was his flesch: ek to other wo,
 In no creature (ich understonde): ne fond nevere man
 mo.

For in eehe stedē of his flesch: hi were so thicke
 isete,
 That the grete ne miȝtē come: for the smalē to here
 mete. 2140

Faste hi schove and cropē ek: as emeten alaboute;
 Ae the smalē elevede fastē to: the grete levede with-
 oute.

He deide ellevē hondred ȝer: and soventi and on,
 After that oure Louerd alizte: to nyme oure flesch
 and bon.

Of threo and vyfti ȝer him silf: of eldē he was tho:
 He haddē meni a fair dai: ilyved in care and wo.
 The King was evere in Normandie: and therof nuste
 noȝt:

He makede deol and sorwe ynou: tho the tethinge him
 was ibroȝt.

In the eastel of Argenteyme: he sojournede tho, 2149
 Withoute the ȝet ne com he noȝt: fourti dayes ne mo;
 Ac evere him hulde in privité: in wop and other wo;
 For no neode that me him sede: he nolde withoutē go.
 He ne roȝte nothing of this wordle: lute he et also:
 The sorwe and deol that he makede: ne miȝte nevere
 beo ido.

He sende anon to Canterbure: for this deolful dede,

And the monekës bad pitousliehe: that hi for him
bede;

And sende hem word that hit nas: nothing bi his rede,
And that the Kniȝte[s] wendë forth: and nothing hi ne
seide;

And that he sendë after hem: that hi come aȝe,
And er the man hem comë to: hi were fur in the see.
To the Popë also god: the King sendë sone, 2161
And bad his consail pitousliehe: what him was to done;
And bad him, for the love of God: in such angusse
him rede,

That he were ischryvë and assoilled: of the lithere
dede.

The Pope haddë gret pité: that he such word him
sende;

And gret joy that he hadde wille: his lyf to amende.
Tuei Cardynals he sendë him: wise men bothë tuo,
To schryve him of thulkë synne: and assoilli also;
And the Bischops to assoilli ek: that were in mansinge.
Wele that this Cardinals: wolcome were the Kinge.
The King bad hem deolfulliehe: schryve him of the
dede; 2171

Ac bihet hem stabliehe: to stonde al at here rede.
He swore upe the halidom: that hit nas bi him noȝt,
Ne bi his wille, ne bi his heste: that he was to dethe
ibroȝt;

Ne that for his fader deth: so sori man he nas,
Ne for his mordë nothëmo: as he for him was.
And that he wolde with godë hurte: the penanee al
afonge,

That hi wolde legge on him: nere hit noȝt so stronge;
 For he was enehésoun of his deth: and of his anuy
 also,

For the Kniȝtēs to paye him: brouȝtē him therto. ²¹⁸⁰
 Tho the Cardinals iseȝe: that he repentant withdrouȝ,
 Hi assoillede him, and leide on him: penanee strong
 ynouȝ,

In priveité, as riȝt was: that noman hit nuste;
 And this ek that ieh wole nou telle: that that fole of
 wiste;—

That he fonde to the holi londe: to hondred kniȝtes to
 fiȝte,

Al a ȝer, with Templers: for holi ehurehē riȝte;
 And the statutz of Clarendone: he scholde about with-
 drawe,

For whan this holi man: was ibroȝt of dawē;
 And that he elanliehe ȝulde azé: that bynomē was,
 The bishopriehe of Canturbure: for wraththe of
 Seint Thomas; 2190

That he schulde his uel wille: al elanliehe ek forȝyve,
 Al that he hadde of londe: for wraththe of him idryve.
 The King grantede al here wille: wepingē wel sore;
 And seide hit was to lute: and bad legge on him more;
 And seide, “almid willē her: mi bodi ieh bitake:
 “ȝeveth me penānee ynouȝ: ynelē non forsake.”

Ile wende out attē ehurehē dore: assoilled to beo,
 And ne huld him noȝt worthe: that me scholde him
 withinne iseo.

Withoute the churehē pitousliehe: he sat adoun akneo,

Ae the Cardinals nolde noȝt: his bodi al unwreo. 2200
 Ac somdel above his clothes: hi assoillede him there.
 For deol hi wopě pitousliche: meni that ther were.
 As sone he make ane biheste: with wel dreori chere,
 His fader penanee to fulfille: if he of poër nere;
 If he ful in feble stat: that he ne miȝte hit ful ende,
 The penance he nom upe him silve: and dude as the
 hende.

Thus was this godě man: ibroȝt to martirdom:
 Meni was the fair mirácle: that siththě for him com.
 Me wiste in Jernsalem: that he was to dethe ido, 2209
 Withinne the furstě fourtēniȝt: that hit com therto.
 For a monek of thulkě londe: in his deth uvel lay,
 And his Abbot tofore him eom: bifore his endě day;
 And conjured him that he scholde: after his deth uvel
 there,

Come to him and telle him fore: in which stat he were.
 So that the monek deidě sone: as God ȝaf the cas.
 To his Abbot siththe he com: as he conjured was;
 And scide that he isaved was: in the joye of hevene
 anheȝ, 2217

And tolde him mochě of the joye: that he ther iseȝ.
 He tolde him that thulkě tyme: that he to hevene com,
 The Archebischop of Canterbury: tholede martirdom;
 And that his soulě thulkě tyme: wende to hevene anon.
 Fair was the processioun: that aȝen him com gon,
 Of angles and of patriares: and of apostles also,
 Of martirs and of confessours: and of virginěs therto.
 Hi nome alle his holi soule: and tofore oure Louerd
 come,

And brouȝte him with joye ynouȝ: as he sat on his
trone.

His erouně was al of ismyte: blodi was his heved,
And his brayn was al isehad: that ther nas noȝt ileved.
“Thomas! Thomas!” quath oure Louerd: “thus hit
falleth to thé,

“To come into thi Louerdes court: in suehe manère
to me. 2230

“For thi servise, ieh thé ȝeve: moehě joye and blis,
“As ieh ȝaf Seint Peter: that myn owe diseiple is.”
A eroune he sette upon his heved: of gold eler and
god:

Wel bicom the briȝtě gold: upon the redě blod.
Morě joye ne miȝtě beo: than for him in hevene was:
The Arehebisep of Canterbure: this was Seint
Thomas.

The Tuesdai after Cristes masse: the nextě that ther
eom,

The holi man Seint Thomas: tholede martirdom.
And whan thu hurest telle of his deth: of men of
Engělonde,

Thu sehalt ileove me of this tale: and that sothe
underfonge. 2240

The Abbot sone amorwe: ne forȝet noȝt Seint Thomas,
Ae the Patriare of Jerusalem: he toldě al that eas;
So that forthere in the ȝere: hit was wel understonde,
That Pelegrims thider eome: out of Engělonde.

The Pelegrims tolde al that sothe: as he hadde er ised,
In what manère he was aslawe: and which tyme he
was ded.

Icud was thus in Jerusalem: the deth of Seint Thomas,
 Withinne the furstē fourtēniȝt: that he ymartred was.
 The vyftē ȝer (ich understonde): after his martirdom,
 Bituene King Henri and his sone: gret contek ther
 com. 2250

The sone bicom prout anon: for his kynēdom,
 And of his fader toldē lute: and werrē upe him nom.
 The mestē del was with his sone: of al Engēlonde,
 And the King of France also: and the King of Scot-
 londe;
 So that this seli oldē man: in sorwe was ynouȝ;
 Al he hit wiste the lithere dede: that me Seint Tho-
 mas slouȝ.

Ile wendē out of Normandie: into Engēlonde;
 Er he com to Canterbure: he nolde no whar atstonde.
 Tho he com fur withoute the toun: he gan to aliȝte
 adoun,

Al afote and barefot: he wende into the toun, 2260
 In his curtel al ungurd: (as al that folc isay),
 And to the place he wendē so: as Seint Thomas lay.
 He huld up his honden dulfulliche: and cridē milce
 and ore:

At his tumbc he ful akneo: wepingē wel sore.
 Weping in his oreisouns: al fastinge he lay,
 At this holi manēs tumbc: a niȝt and a day.
 Of ech monek of the hous: he let him discipline,
 With a ȝurd, and ȝut him thoȝte. that hit was to lute
 pyne.

He bad hem allē dulfulliche: biddē for him one: 2269
 He swor ek to legge adoun: the lithere lawes echone.

So that he let singe a masse: er he thannēs wende,
Of Seint Thomas the holi man: that he his grace him
sende. .

The whilē me this massē song: (as God ȝaf the cas,)
The Kyng of Scotlond was ynome: that his meste fo
was;

And meni othere ek with him: that were his mestē fon,
So that hi that were ynome: naddē poēr non.

So that this seli oldē Kyngē: that bynethe tho was,
Al above was ibroȝt: thurf the grace of Scint Thomas;
And his sone was bynethe: and so biȝat ful lute,
To werren aȝen his fader: for his sori prute. 2280

Bi him men mowe nyme ensample: to beo to hastyve,
To ȝeve here sonēs up here lond: the while hi beoth
alyve.

The sone tho therafterward: provede uvele ynouȝ;
Wel longe bifore his fader: toward the dethe he drouȝ,
And forpynede in the meneisoun: that his lyf him
thoȝtē longe,

And deidē siththē dulfliche: in gret pyne and strong.
His brother also, Sire Geffrai: that of Britaigne Eorl
was,

Deide ek in the meneisoun: in the silvē eas;
So that after here fader dethe: ther bilevede heir non,
Bote here brother Kyng Richard: and siththē Kyng
John. 2290

Ae Sire Geffreiēs child: bi riȝtē lawe of londe,
Scholde habbe ibore the heritage: as ich understonde:
Therefore that maide of Britaigne: that his douȝter was,
In warde was al hire lyf: for thulkē silvē eas.

The lithere Kniȝtēs, allē fourc: that slowē Seint
Thomas,

Deide in strongē detliē ynouȝ; and no wonder nas!
Hi were echone repentant: ne miȝtē none men more:
Evere hi cride on Seint Thomas: to ȝeve hem milce
and ore.

Sone after that he was aslawe: here god al hi lete,
And wendē to the holi lond: here synnēs forto bete.
Ac Williēm Traci ne wendē noȝt: forth with thother
threo; 2301

He hopede her in Engēlond: repentant ynouȝ to beo;
Ac he bicom therafterward: in grete meseise and
strong,

His flesch bigan to breken out: and rotede and foule
stonk,

So longē, that hit stonk so foule: that deol hit was to
seo,

That unethe myȝtē eni man: for stinchē neȝ him beo.
His flesch rotede on him ek: and al dai ful away,
That his bonis were al bare: ne likede him no pley.
He todrouȝ ek his owē flesch: mid his honden, attē
laste,

Pece and other al abrod: fram him awei caste. 2310

He todrouȝ honden and armes: mest of echon,
That ther nas no flesch ileved: bote synnēs and bar bon.
Meni men hit thoȝtē wel: that hit his willē were,
Forto bete his synne: that his soule in peril nre.
Wrecchedere gost ne miȝtē beo: than this scli prisoun
was,

Evere he cridē deolfulliche: “merci, Seint Thomas!”

Attē laste he let his lyf: in the strongē pyne,
 And if hit Godēs willē was: com to godē fyne.
 This Kniȝtēs, for this lithere dede: deidē sone echon,
 So that in the thriddē ȝere: ther ne levede alyve noȝt
 on: 2320

For the Sauter saith that suchē men: that of tricherie
 beoth,
 Ne schulleth noȝt half here dayes libbe: as we aldai
 iseoht.

Theȝ hi beo wel repentant: as this Kniȝtēs were, ich
 wene,
 ȝut ne libbeth hi noȝt half here lyf: as hit was bi hem
 isene.

Seint Thomas, this holi man: under urthē lay,
 Er that he ischryned were: meni a long day.
 He lai therinnē fourti ȝer: and half ȝer therto,
 And aboute an eiȝtē dayes: er he were of urthe ido.
 God wolde abidē a god tyme: to so noble thing,
 Whan hi werē bothē gode: Archebischop and King.
 For the Kyng that longē was: and evere was of lither
 dede, 2331

Lutē thoȝtē, bi his day: to do so godē dede.
 Ac the King Henri the ȝungē sone: nolde noȝt longē
 fyne,
 Tho he was ȝung King ymaked: er he were in schryne.
 He nas noȝt of threttene ȝer: er he dude this noble
 thing,
 And hit was ek in the furthe ȝer: that he was ymaked
 Kyng.

The gode Archebischop Steven: radde evere faste therto,

So that bi herě beirě red: this dedě was ido.

The Pope Hono[r]i that was tho: hedir he gan sende
Pandolf, a Legat fram Rome: to bringe this dede to
ende. 2340

The Pope ȝaf allě gret pardoun: that thider woldě gon,
That me nuste longe in Engělund: so gret pardoun
non.

Therfori to honurye this holi bodi: ther eom fole ynouȝ,
Of bishops and of abbotes: menion thider drouȝ;
Of priours and of persones: and of meni other elerkes
also,

Of eorlēs and of barouns: and of meni knyȝtes therto;
Of serjantȝ and of squiers: and of hosebondes ynowe,
And of simple men ek of the lond: so thiekě thider
drowe,

That al the lond therabout: the contrayes wide and
longe,

Miȝte unethe al that fole: that ther eom, afonge. 2350
So that this heȝč men: that seholde this dedě do,
Were in eare hou hi miȝte: for pressě come therto;
So that the Archēbischop Steven: of wham that ich
ȝou er sede,

And the Bishop Richard of Salisbure: nomě hem to
rede;

And the Priour, Water, of the hous: and the Covent
also,

Wenden hem alle in priveité: this dedě forto do.

Binyȝte as the men leye and slepe: and lutě therof
thoȝte,

Hi nomě up this holi bones: and in a chiste hem broȝte.

And sette hem up in a privei stede: forte the dai were
icome,

That was icrid into al that lond: that he scholde beo
up ynome, 2360

This was in the month of Jul: riȝt evene the soveth
dai,

That bi a Tywěsdai was tho: as al that fole isay.

Tho this dai was icome: to this mynstre wende anon

The Kyng Henri the ȝungē child: and this heȝe men
cehon.

Aboutē underne of the dai: to [this] holi bodi hi come;

Pandolf wendē furste therto: the Legat of Rome;

And the Archebischop of Canterbury: and of Reyns
also,

That for the silvē thingē come: fram biȝundē see
therto.

And Sire Huberd de Brom: that was the heȝe Justise,

And four grete louerdlings that were: noble men and
wise, 2370

Upe here schuldren hi nome: this holi bodi anon;

And the bischops and abbotes: were ek meni on.

To the heȝ [auter] of the Trinité: this holi bones hi
bere,

And leide the chiste al therwith: in a noble schryne
there.

This King Henri was so ȝung: that he ne therstē noȝt,

With othere bere this holi bones: leste me hurte him
oȝt.

This was bi a Tywěsdai: that this bončs up hi nome:

Al his cheānces that he hadde: by Tywěsdai hi come.

Bi Tywěsdai he was ibore: and out of his moder
wombe com; 2379

And also me bringeth aně theof: to fongen his dom,
Tofore the Kyng at Norhamptone: bi a Tuěsdai:
With gretě schame he was ibroȝt: as al that folc isai:
Vyllokere than eni theof: that folc him ther aschende.
Bi Tuěsdai he was iflemd: and out of Engeland wende.
Bi a Tuěsday at Ponteney: oure Louerd to him com,
And seidě him that swetě word: of his martirdom.

“Thomas!” seide oure swetě Louerd: “ȝut schullen of
thi blode,

“Alle mi churchen ihéred beo:” this beoth wordēs
gode.

Bi Tuěsdais also god: to Engěland he com, 2389

After that he was iflemd: to fonge his martirdom.

Bi a Tuěsdai at Canterbury: to dethe he was ido,

And siththě bi a Tuěsdai: ischryned also.

Thuse sově thinges bi Tuěsdai: him come attě laste:

Therfore me siȝth meni men: maki herě faste,

To levě flesc thane Tuěsdai: other to o mel faste,

Forte hi come to Canterbure: to honury the heȝe feste.

Nou Jesus, for the swetě love: that Seint Thomas on
thoȝte,

Bringe ous to thulkě joye: that he so deore ous to
bouȝte. AMEN. 2398

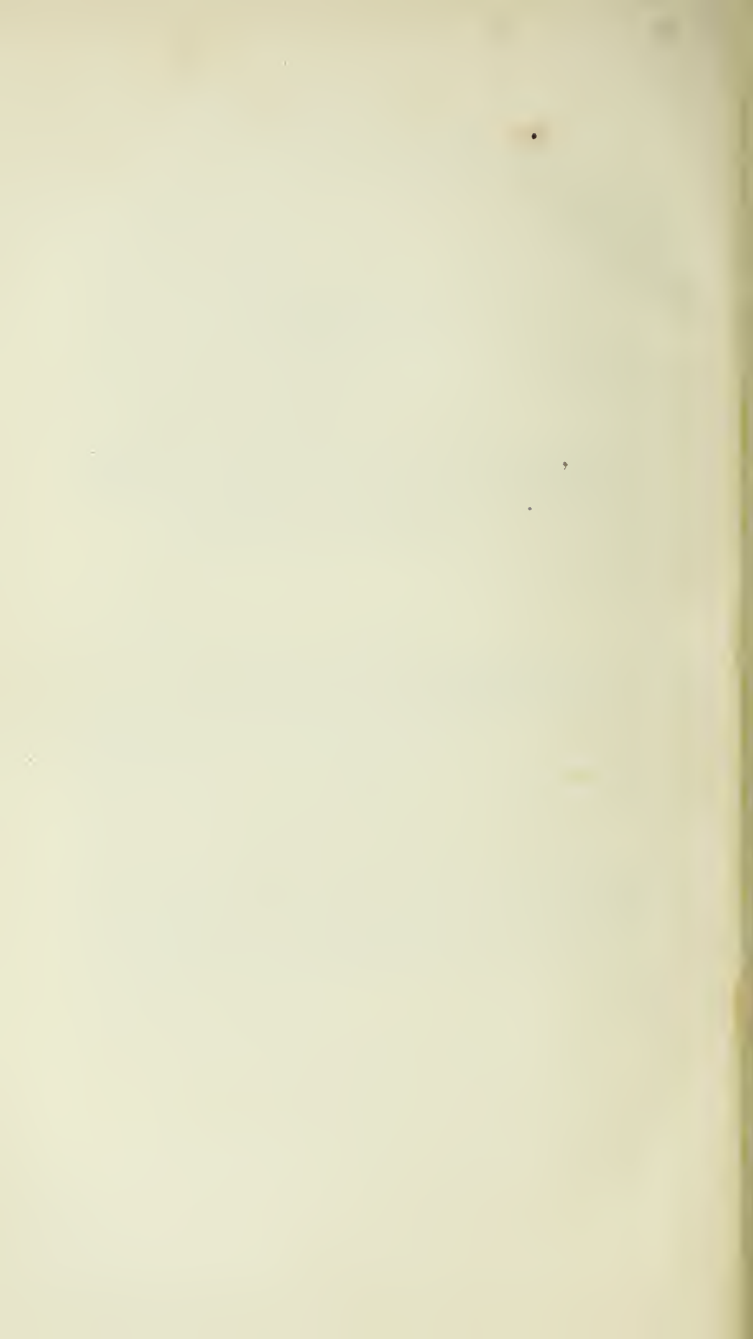
APPENDIX.

THE HISTORY AND MARTYRDOM OF THOMAS BEKET,

EXTRACTED FROM THE METRICAL CHRONICLE OF

ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER.

(Hearne's edition, pp. 468-478, and 517-518, corrected by
the Cottonian MS. Caligula A. xi. ff. 131^b-135,
and 145^b-146.)



APPENDIX.

(Hearne, pp. 468-478, MS. ff. 131^b-135.)

KING HENRI wondede muehe: to abbe men in oflis,
Mid him, that of conseil: werě god and wis.
Eredekne of Kanterbury: Sein Tomas tho was:
The King him made is Chaunceler: ae* is wille it
nou[3]t nas.

To him the King trustě mest: ne ther nas non so hey,
That so muehe wuste is privité: ne that him were so
ney.

So muehe he truste on him: that in is warde he let do
Henri is eldoste sone: and is eir al so,
That he were his wardein: and al is ordeinour,
To is wille to wissi him: and to the Kinges honour. 10
The King wende to Normandie: to sojorni there,
And mid Sein Tomas dude is sone: that he is wardein
were.

Tho Tebaud the Erehebissop: suththě ded was,
The King and monekes ek: ehosě Seint Tomas.
Tho he was Erehebissop: he huld ȝut in is hond
That child, vort that the King: come in to Engēlond.

* MS. *at*.

The child loved him inou: more nas nevere iseye,
Ne he nadde of no man: morě love ne eye.

Tho the King to londě com: Sein Tomas nom is sone,
And wel vawe aȝen him: wende to Southhamtone. ²⁰

Ther was joye and blisse inou: tho hii togadere come;
Hii custe hom and biclupte: and herede God ilome.

It was enlevě hundred ȝer: and sixti and tuo,

Of grace, that Sein Tomas: was Erchebissop tho.

The nexte ȝer ther after: (as it woldě be,)

Endlevě hundred ȝer of grace: and sixti and thre,

He halwede, as the King him bed: the church of
Redinge,

That verst ifounded was: thoru Henri the other Kinge.

He ssrinede thulkě sulvě ȝer: Seint Edward, iwis,

That was King of Engělond: at Westmunstre that is. ³⁰

The King ȝef thulkě sulvě ȝer: Henri is sone, Aungeo,

Tours, and al Normandie: and Richard is sone, al so,

He ȝef Gascoine and Aquitaine: so that hii dude homage

King Lowis of France: thervore, withoute outrage.

Geffray is sone he made Erl: of Brutaine al so.

The wule is children ȝongě were: al this was ido.

No man ne miȝtě thenche: the lově that ther was,

Bituene the King Henri: and the gode man Seint
Tomas.

The Devel adde envie ther to: and sed bituene hom
seu:

Alas! alas! thulke stounde: vor al to wel it greu! ⁴⁰

Vor ther adde er ibé: Kinges of luther dede,

As Willam Bastard and is sone: Willam the Rede;

That luther lawěs made ynou: and helde in to al the
lond.

The King nolde nouȝt bileve: the lawës that he fond,
 Ne that is elderne hulde: ne the godeman Sein Tomas,
 Thouȝte that thing aȝe riȝte: nevere lawë nas,
 Ne sotlnesse, ae costume: mid strengthe up iholde;
 And he wuste that ur Louerd: in the gospel tolde,
 That he him sulf was sotlnesse: and costumë non[ȝ]t:
 Ther vore luther costumes: he noldë graunti nouȝt. 50
 Ne the King nolde bileve: that is elderne adde iholde;
 So that eontek sprong: bituene hom, mani volde.

The King drou to riȝtë lawe: mani luther eostome:
 Sein Tomas hom withsede: and grantédë some.
 The lawës that icholle nou telle: he grauntedë vawe:—
 ȝuf a thuman hath a sone: to clergie idrawe,
 He ne ssal, withoute is louerdes [wille:*) icrouned
 nouȝt be:

Vor thuman ne may nouȝt be imad: aȝen is louerdes
 wille fre.

Another thing he grauntede ek: as ȝe mowe nou isé:
 ȝuf a man of holichirehe: halt eni lay fe, 60
 Person other wat he be: he ssal do thervore
 Kinges servise that ther valth†: that is riȝte ne be
 vorlore;

In playdinge and in asise be: and in jugëment also,
 Bote war man ssal be bilemed: other to dethe ido.
 He grantede ek, ȝuf eni man: the kingës traytour were,
 And eni man of is chateus: to holi churchë bere,
 That holi church ne ssoldë nouȝt: the chateus therë
 lette,

* Evidently omitted in this line, though expressed in the next.

† Hearne has *valp*.

That the king there, other is: as is owene, is ne vette:
Vor al that the felon hath: the kingës it is,
And eeh man mai, in holi ehurehe: is owene take, ywis.⁷⁰
He grantede ek, that a churehe: of the kingës fe,
In none stede eve* and evere: ne ssolde izivě be,
As to hous of religion: withoute the kingës leve;
And that he, other the patron: the gifte verst 3eve.
Seint Tomas grantede wel: thes and other mo:
Ae this othere he withsede: that dude him wel wo:—
3uf bituene tueie lewede men: were eni striving,
Other bituene a lewede and a elere: vor holiehurehě
thing,
As vor vowěson of ehurehe: wether ssolde the ehurehě
3ive,
The king wolde that in is court: the ple ssolde be
drive, 80
Vor as muehe as a lewed man: that the o partie was,
Clanliehe was under the king: and under no bissop nas.
Another was, that no bissop: ne elere nathěmo,
Ne ssolde withoute[the] kingës leve: out of this lond go;
And thanně hii ssolde suerie: upe the bok, ywis,
That hii ne ssolde purehasy non uvel: the king, ne
non of his.
The thridde was, 3uf eni man: in mansinge were ibrou3t,
And suththěcome to amendement: nea3é ri3tenere no3t,
That he ne suore nou3t upe the boc: ae borewes findě
solde,
To stonde to that holiehirche: ther of him loky wolde.⁹⁰

* Hearne has *ene*: perhaps it ought to read *evre* in both places.

The verthe was, that no man: that of the kinge hulde
ouȝt,

In chef, other in eni servise: in mansinge were ibroȝt,
Bote the wardeins of holichirche: that broȝtē him
therto,

The king sede, other is bailifs: wat he adde misdo ;
And lokede verst wer hii wolde: to amendement it
bringe,

And bote hii wolde be hor leve: do the mansinge.
The vifte was, that bissopriches: and abbeies also,
That vacauns were of prelas : in the kinges hond
were ido;

And that the king ssolde al the lond: as is owē take,
Vort attē lastē that him luste: eni prelat ther make, ¹⁰⁰
And thannē thulkē prelat ssolde: in is chapele ichosē be,
Of is clerkes, wuche he wolde: to such prelat bi se;
And thannē wan he were ichose: in is chapele riȝt
there,

Homage he ssolde him do: ar he confermed were.
The sixtē was, ȝuf eni play: to chapitle were idrawe,
And eni man made is apēl: ȝuf me dude him unlawe,
That to the bissop fram ercedekne: is apēl ssoldē make,
And fram bissop to erchēbissop: and suththe non
herrē take ;

And bote the erchēbissopes court: to riȝte him woldē
bringe,

That he ssolde fram him: biclupe bivore the kinge; ¹¹⁰
And fram the king non herre mo: so that, atten ende,
Plaininge* of holichirche: to the king soldē wende,

* So in the MS, but differently in v. 115.

And the king amendi ssolde: the erehëbissopes dede,
And be as in the popës stude: æ Sein Tomas it with
sede.

The sevethe was, that plaidinge: that of dettë were,
To ȝelde wel thorn treuthe ipliȝt: and noȝt iholdë nere;
Al thei thoru treuthe it were: that ple ssolde be ibroȝt,
Bivore the king and is bailifs: and to holi churehë noȝt.
The eiȝtethe was, that in the londe: eitaicion non nere,
Thoru bullë of the pope of Rome: æ elene bileved were.
The nithe was, that Petres panes: that me gadereth
manion, 121

The popë nere nouȝt on isend: æ the king eehon.
The tethë was, ȝuf eni clere: as felon were itake,
And vor felon iproved: and ne miȝte it noȝt vorsake;
That me ssolde him verst desordeini: and suththe
thoru pur lawe,
And thorn jugement of the lond: honge him, other to
drawe.

Vor thes, and vor other mo: the godemon, Seint Tomas,
Fleu verst out of Engëlund: and suththe ymartred was.
Vor he sei ther nas bote o wey: other he moste stif be,
Other holiehurehë was issent: that mid riȝte was so
fre. 130

Endlevë hundred ȝer of graee: and foure and sixti therto,
It was, that Sein Tomas: of londe wendë so.
The nexte ȝer ther after: the Amperessë Mold
Wende out of this live: as the boe ath itold.
The King let erouni to Kinge: an vif ȝer after this,
Henri is eldoste sone: at Westmunstre, ywis,
As endlevë hundred ȝer of graee: and sixti and tene;

And sixtene ȝer he was old: tho he was ierouned, ieh
wene.

The Erchebissop of Everwik: and the Bissop of Londone,
And of Salesbury, him erounde: aȝen riȝt and wone.¹⁴⁰
Vor the Erchebissop of Canturburi: mid riȝte it
ssoldē do.

Tho Sein Tomas it wuste: gret deol he nom him to.
That the churehe of Kanterbury: in such unriȝt was
ibroȝt,

He noldē, vor to tholie deth: leng tholie it noȝt.
He drou him towarde Engēlond: to is martirdom:
As Godēs kniȝt, he bigan: tho he hider com.
He amansede allē thulke: that such unriȝt adde ido,
To the churehe of Canterbury: and the King ierouned
so.

The thre bissopes worthē* were: and nome hom to rede,
And wendē vorth to Normandie: and the olde King it
sede. 150

The King was nei, vor wraththē, wod: and sedē, “ȝuf
that he

“Amanseth allē thulkē men: thanne amanseth he me.”
He acorsede allē thulkē men: that he hadde vorth
ibrouȝt,

That of an falsē preste: ne abbē eke him nouȝt.†
That word he sedē ofte: in hastinesse, ywis:
Foure of the Develes limes: is Kniȝtēs, hurdē this;
Sire Reinaud Le Fizours: Sire Roger Brut al so,
Sire Hue de Morvile: Sir Willam Traci ther to;

* So, for *wrothe*.

† That had not avenged him of a false priest. See *Life*, v. 1946.

Hii nomě hom to rede: and vor to paye is wille,
 Wendě vorth to Engělund: hastěliche and stille. 160
 Tho the King com to is mete: and is Knižtēs mid
 him were,

He bihuld and miste: thulkě fourě there.
 Is herte him žef anon: wuderward hii wende:
 In anguisse and sor ynou: after hom he sende,
 Toward the se, hasteliehe: that hii come ažé.
 Ar the messenger come: hii were in the se.
 Hii wende hom vorth to Kanterburi: and in the churchě
 rižt,

Hii martreden Sein Tomas: an Tiwesday at nižt.
 This godeman sat adoun akne: and is heved buyede
 adoun,

And wel softe, as some hurde: sede this orison:— 170
 “God and Seintě Marie: and Sein Denis al so,
 “And alle the avowēs of this churchē: in was ore ich
 am ido,*

“Ich bitake min soule: and holi churchě rižt!”
 žut he bed vor holi ehurehe: tho he nadde other mižte.
 Sir Reinaud Le Fizours: mest ssrewe of echon,
 Vor to smite this holi man: is suerd drou anon.
 Ac Edward Grim, that was is elere: of Grantěbrugge
 ibore,

To helpe is louerd, žuf he mižte: pulte is arm bivore.
 He wounde his arm suithě sore: thut blod orn adoun:
 Mid thulkě dunt ek he smot: Sein Tomas upe the
 eroun, 180

* And all the patron-saints of this church, in whose favor I am placed.—Hearne reads *abowes*.

That thut blod orn bi is face: in the riȝt half of the
wounde.

Loudě gradde the luther Kniȝt: "Smiteth alle to
grounde!"

In thulkě sulvě wounde: an other him smot tho,
That he abuyde is faee adoun: vort ther eomě mo.
The thridde in thulkě sulvě stede: ther after smot
anon,

And made him aloute al adoun: is faee vpe on the ston.
In thulkě stede the verthě smot: that the othere adde
er ydo;

And the point of is suerd bree: in the marbreston
a tuo.

ȝut thulkě point at Canterbury: the monekes lateth
wite,

Vor honour of the holi man: that therwith was ismite.
With thulkě stroe he smot al of: the seolle and ek the
eroune, 191

That the brain orn al abrod: in the paviment ther
doun.

Tho this holiman imartred was: the Kniȝtēs gradde
echon,

"This traitor is to dethe ibroȝt: wende we henne
anon.

"Syweth us* the Kingēs men: and alle that mid him
beth.

"Of this traitor we beth awreke: as ȝe nou iseth.

* In the MS. *nou* was the original reading, corrected into *us*, which Hearne misprinted *vi*.

“ He thouȝte be herrē than the King: and binime him
is croune,

“ And to nouȝte bringe al Engēlond: and nou he lith
ther doune!”

In endlevē hundred ȝer of grace: this godeman, Sein
Tomas,

And sixti and endlevene: thus imartred was. 200

Tho the King it wuste: he madē deol ynou,

So that vor anguisse: nci him sulve he slou.

In the castel of Argentein: vourty dawes he was,

In a chaumbre al one: withoute eni solas.

In wop and sorwe and deol inou: and confort non him
nas,

Ae evere on the holiman: criede, Sein Tomas.

So that tueie Cardinals: the Pope him sende, iwis;

And hii him asoilede: of that was ido amis.

And he undude the luther lawes: and grauntede alle
the gode,

That Sein Tomas esste: as hii understode. 210

Of forest and of other thing: that is elderne nome
amis,

He undude, and ther to: is elartre made, iwis.

Ac after is daye iholde: febliehe it was,

Of King Jon, and of othere: and natheles ther nas,

Non of hom, that somē time: (mid wille thei it nere,)

Ne grauntede and confermede it: thei it lute wurth
werc:

Vor mani is the godē bodi: that aslawe is thervore.

To betere ende God it bringe: that vor us was ibore!*

* Here ends the portion of the metrical text, omitted in the
Heralds' MS.

After Sein Tomas dethe: aboute an ȝerës to,
Ther sprong contek suithë strong: (thei it luther were
ido,) 220

Bitucne King Henri the olde: and the yonge, mid wou:
Vor the sone aros aʒé the fader: and dude him ssame
ynou,

Thoru the King of France: was doȝter was is wif;
Vor thoru a vowe of him: the sone bigan that strif.
Vor the King of Fraunce: and the Erl of Flaundres
ther to,

And Sir Roberd Erl of Leicestre: and Sire Hue
Bigod also,

And the King of Scotlond ek: and manie other kniȝt,
With the sone aȝe [the] fader: huldě with unrȝt.

Hii destruede and robbed: the fader londes, mid wou:
The father was in Normandie: and deöl made ynou.

He huld it al wreche of God: vor Sein Tomas mar-
tirdom, 231

And nathȝeles with gret poȝr: to Engȝelond he com.*
 The Erl Willam of Gloucestere: huld mid him vaste,
 And mani other trewȝ kniȝt: so that attȝ laste,†
 (Ae the olde King at Canterbury: mid gode herte and
 wille,

* This line is omitted in Hearne's copy, but supplied in his notes from the *Heralds' MS.* with a slight transposition of the words. It exists, however, in the *Cottonian text*, as above.

† This clause, in all probability, is erroneous, and left so by the author; for though the next four lines, (which are here printed within parentheses, as by Hearne,) are needful to complete the narrative, they are omitted in the Heralds' MS., and v. 239 is construed with this verse, in the stead of v. 238.

Hurde is masse of Sein Tomas: and eride him merei,
 stille.

Is ost, and is soně ost: the wulě masse ilaste,
 Smite an stronge bataile: so that attě laste,)
 Thoru grace of Sein Tomas: is men overcome
 Hor fon, and the King: of Scotlondě nome.
 And Sir Hue Bigod ek: and the Erl of Leicetre, ²¹⁰
 Inome was thoru Willam: Erl of Gloucestre.
 Manion ther was aslawe: so that this vair eas,
 The King it thonkede everidel: the godeman Sein
 Tomas.

So that the fader and the sone: acorded werě tho,
 Ae the soněs herte aȝé the fader: was ever mo;
 And the bretheren hulde al so: aȝen hor fader vaste,
 Vorte the ȝonge King Henri: deidě attě laste.
 A Sein Barnaběs day: and (as it woldě be)
 Endlevě hundred ȝer of grace: and eiȝteti and thre;²⁵⁰
 In Normandye he deyde: and thulkě ȝer al so,
 Seint Egwine at Evesham: in ssrine was verst ido:
 Glastingburi was ther after: and to ȝer, ibroȝt to
 grounde,
 Vorbarnd, and of King Arthure: the boněs verst
 ifounde.

(Ibid. pp. 517-518, ff. 145^b-146.)

Ther after at Westmunstre: ar the Baronie bi sai,*
 Hii crounede the King ariȝt: a Witesoněday.†

* Hearne *vi sai*.

† This coronation of King Henry III. took place on the 17th

It was as in the ȝer of grace: a* tuelf hundred and
tuenti ȝer,

And as in the verthē ȝer: that he verst crounē ber.

The newē worc of Westm[unstre]: the King bigan
tho anon,

After is crouninge: and leide the verstē ston. 260

The King wende tho to Canterbury: and the heiemen
also.

To nime† up Scin Tomas body: and in to ssrinē do:

Arst he adde ileyē an erthe: unssrined vifti ȝer.

Of Engēlond and of France: so muche fole ther com
ther,

That alle contreye aboute: unnethe avonge it niȝte;

Ther vore hii nome him up: privēliche bi niȝte.

of May, 1220, and the inshrining of Beket on the 7th of July following; which latter day is marked in calendars prior to the Reformation thus:—*Translatio sancti Thomæ Martyris*, to distinguish it from the day of his death, the 29th of December, where the first of these words is omitted.

* So Hearne: the MS. has "&."

+ So the MS., but Hearne reads *mine*. Cf. Life, vv. 2358, 2360, 2377.

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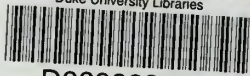
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